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NO. 7616 TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1990/SHA'ABAN 16, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS

Iraq rejects clemency pleas for UK journalist

BAGHDAD, March 12, (Agencies): Iraq today rejected clemency appeals to save a journalist working for a London newspaper from execution as interference in its domestic affairs, but a Baghdad-based envoy said there was still a slight chance the sentence would not be carried out.

Baghdad-based European diplomats said Britain over the weekend mobilised its European Economic Community partners, and Arab friends such as King Hussein of Jordan, to use their good offices and ask Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to spare the life of Iranian-born Farzad Bazoft, 31, a reporter for the prestigious London weekly the Observer.

An Iraqi military court on Saturday sentenced Bazoft to death by firing squad after finding him guilty of spying for Israel. Persons convicted of treason and espionage in Iraq are generally executed by firing squad shortly after sentence is pronounced. A British nurse, Daphne Parish, was sentenced to 15 years hard labour for allegedly helping Bazoft in his mission.

"The outcry by certain media groups is tantamount to interference in Iraq's domestic affairs," Iraq's official INA news agency quoted Iraqi Information Minister Latif S. Jassem as saying.

"This is because the verdict is in complete compliance with the country's law. The national and pan-Arab security of Iraq should be accorded precedence over any other considerations," he said.

The Iraqi information minister said Bazoft had confessed his spying activities for Israel on Iraqi television, and rejected accusations that the confession was obtained under duress.

Jassem said Britain was aware of all the facts and added: "They know that the eyes of the Iraqis are open... and their national security is more important than any other factor."

"Bazoft has made confessions on Iraqi television about his mission, and the nature of the aid which (British nurse Daphne) Parish gave him," Jassem said.

Bazoft, who was arrested during an assignment in Baghdad while visiting the site of a military plant where an explosion had earlier reportedly killed hundreds of people, said on state-owned Iraqi television after his arrest in Sept 1989 that he had been spying for Israel.

But as the Soviet Parliament debated whether to create a new-style Soviet president with wide executive powers including the right to rule by decree, top Communist Party conservative Yegor Ligachev ruled out the use of force.

Parliament began meeting only hours after Lithuania's Parliament approved with no dissenting voice a declaration proclaiming the republic's sovereignty and independence — as it was between the world wars.

Gorbachev aide and parliamentary deputy Georgy Shakhnazarov said in an interview with Interfax, a publication of Radio Moscow, he thought the congress could overturn Lithuania's secession vote, although he did not say whether such a move was in the offing.

Gorbachev said parliamentary commissions and the Soviet government would begin immediate studies of the Lithuanian decision which could soon be matched by the two other Baltic republics, Latvia and Estonia.

Gorbachev, opening the Politburo congress on Monday at one point referred to Lithuania as the "Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic," ignoring the vote by the republic's legislature to change the name to the Republic of Lithuania.

He did not acknowledge the legality of Lithuania's action, but noted the chairman of the Lithuanian delegation was absent from his chair on the stage with other members of the Presidium.

Non-communist Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said today his people welcomed with joy its regained independence, but described the Kremlin's reaction to the declaration as "laconic."

"There is a lot of joy in Lithuania," he said during a session of the Parliament, or Supreme Soviet, which the previous day declared the Baltic republic's independence from the Soviet Union nearly 50 years after its forcible incorporation.

"Let's hope the joy will be turned into better performance for our country," said Landsbergis, a 57-year-old musicology professor who was elected president of the newly elected Lithuanian Supreme Soviet shortly before the declaration of independence.

Landsbergis quoted the Soviet newspaper Izvestia as saying that Lithuania only changed its name and restored its emblem, without any reference to the issue of independence.

"The information is very laconic," Landsbergis said.

The official Soviet news agency (Continued on Page 2)



Bazoft

Israeli Labour poised to quit

TEL AVIV, March 12, (Agencies): Israel's Labour Party cleared the way today for its leaders to quit Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's coalition government for failing to open peace talks with Palestinians.

The party's 1,300-member Central Committee gave the 126-member Labour Party executive a mandate to take whatever steps necessary to advance peace.

"Shamir avoided a decision and tried to draw us into the desert of indecision," Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, leader of the dovish party, told delegates before they overwhelmingly gave him their support.

But Peres gave no indication whether he would seek a last-minute compromise to save the 15-month-old coalition government.

The Labour executive planned to decide finally on whether to withdraw ahead of a parliamentary session on Thursday in which Shamir's broad coalition government faces eight no-confidence motions.

In a headline speech, Peres attacked both Shamir's rightist Likud Party for its indecision and the United States for its recent tough stance toward Jewish settlements in Arab-East Jerusalem.

"We are talking about the peace process because... the government is after all only a means," he told reporters outside the Labour Party conference hall in Kfar Saba, near Tel Aviv.

With Shamir's Likud Party holding 40 of the 120 seats in Parliament of Labour's 39, Peres appealed in his speech to the four religious parties. Their 18 seats in Parliament would be essential to his forming a narrow government without Likud.

Energy Minister Moshe Shalita of Labour was dismissive about efforts to save the government dominated by Likud and Labour.



All-out war feared

A Christian nun passes through a devastated street in battered East Beirut. Clashes between Lebanese Army troops loyal to defiant General Michel Aoun and fighters of Lebanese Forces resumed evidence of an imminent all-out inter-Christian war. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWSWATCH

Learning new style
Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel (crouching right) being taught by his protocol advisers new procedures for welcoming heads of state of Prague Castle. First to experience the new style will be West German President Richard von Weizsäcker, who pays a one-day visit to Prague on Thursday.



Militants arrested
CAIRO, March 12, (Reuters): Egyptian police today arrested 11 Muslim militants suspected of sparking anti-Christian riots and another was electrocuted trying to escape, Interior Minister Abdel-Halim Moussa said.

He said the members of the clandestine Islamic Jihad group were detained during a dawn raid in the southern town of Minya, scene of Muslim-Christian unrest over the past 10 days.

Cabinet fired
DAR ES SALAAM, March 12, (UPI): Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi asked his entire cabinet to resign today, a brief statement issued by his office said.

The statement gave no explanation for the mass dismissal, saying only that his cabinet ministers were asked to resign pending formation of a new cabinet.

Ministers' duties would meanwhile be handled by their principal secretaries, the statement said.

Tusk stolen
KINSHASA, March 12, (AP): Thieves have stolen a 60-tonne ivory elephant tusk believed to be the largest in the world from a Zairean national park, police said today.

A police source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they have no clues as to who stole the tusk from the L'Wiro Centre for Research in Natural Science at Kaluzi-Biega National Park. The park is near the Rwandan border.

Seoul-China
BEIJING, March 12, (UPI): South Korea's foreign minister, on an unusual brief stopover in Beijing, met today with the US ambassador to China and said his government maintains 'high hope' of eventually cementing diplomatic relations with China.



Peres

Weather

CLOUDY weather continues with light to moderate southeasterly wind said a chance for rain later.

Forecast: Slight to moderate High water: 1.00 pm, 1.00 pm Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.00 am
Sunset: 5.55 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 26°C/79°F
Amman: 22°C/72°F
Rabat: 24°C/75°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 15°C/59°F
Amman: 18°C/64°F
Rabat: 16°C/61°F

Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 27°C/81°F
Amman: 24°C/75°F
Rabat: 25°C/77°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 65 per cent
Amman: 70 per cent
Rabat: 60 per cent

It's no joke

PARIS, March 12, (Reuters): Surgeons transplanted a man's foot, severed when he fell in front of an underground train, onto his arm, hospital officials said today.

A spokesman at the Rothschild Hospital of Paris said the man's foot had been attached to his wrist so that it could be sewn back onto his leg later.

"It's no joke. It was the only way we could save his foot," he said.

Arab summit

TUNIS, March 12, (Reuters): Arab foreign ministers called for an Arab summit as soon as possible on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, an Arab League statement said today.

Coup feared

KUWAIT, March 12, (UPI): Philippines President Corason Aquino admitted in a newspaper interview published today that her troubled administration may be the target of future coup attempts, but predicted that such moves would fail because of the popular support she enjoys.

Activists held

HAVANA, March 12, (Reuters): The Cuban government said today it had detained eight human rights activists, accusing them of creating conditions for a possible US invasion of the island.

Adulterers can be killed

BAGHDAD, March 12, (AP): Under a new law, close relatives who kill adulterous women or their lovers cannot be prosecuted, the business weekly Al Itihad reported today.

The weekly said a decree signed by President Saddam Hussein makes such killings "in defence of honour" unpunishable. Such cases are not uncommon in tribal areas of Iraq.

Until now, those charged with such crimes were sentenced to a few years in jail.

Lithuania alarms Gorbachev

Use of force to crush independence ruled out

MOSCOW, March 12, (Agencies): Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev said today he was alarmed by Lithuania's declaration of independence but he gave no indication he plans any action to prevent the Baltic republic from breaking away from Soviet rule.

But as the Soviet Parliament debated whether to create a new-style Soviet president with wide executive powers including the right to rule by decree, top Communist Party conservative Yegor Ligachev ruled out the use of force.

Parliament began meeting only hours after Lithuania's Parliament approved with no dissenting voice a declaration proclaiming the republic's sovereignty and independence — as it was between the world wars.

Gorbachev aide and parliamentary deputy Georgy Shakhnazarov said in an interview with Interfax, a publication of Radio Moscow, he thought the congress could overturn Lithuania's secession vote, although he did not say whether such a move was in the offing.

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He did not acknowledge the legality of Lithuania's action, but noted the chairman of the Lithuanian delegation was absent from his chair on the stage with other members of the Presidium.

Non-communist Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said today his people welcomed with joy its regained independence, but described the Kremlin's reaction to the declaration as "laconic."

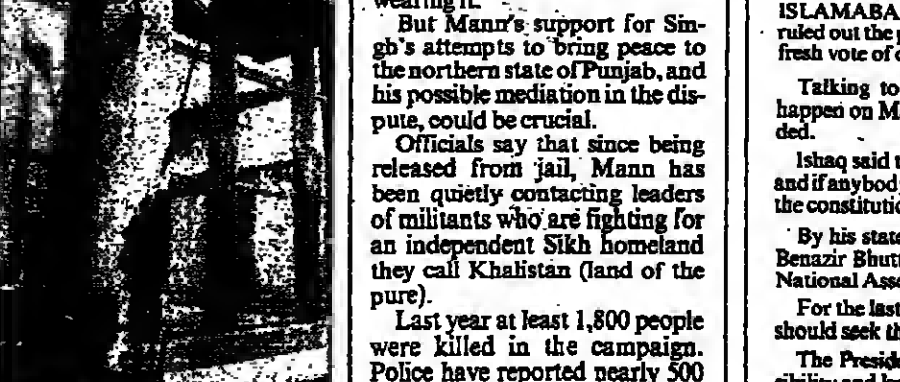
"There is a lot of joy in Lithuania," he said during a session of the Parliament, or Supreme Soviet, which the previous day declared the Baltic republic's independence from the Soviet Union nearly 50 years after its forcible incorporation.

"Let's hope the joy will be turned into better performance for our country," said Landsbergis, a 57-year-old musicology professor who was elected president of the newly elected Lithuanian Supreme Soviet shortly before the declaration of independence.

Landsbergis quoted the Soviet newspaper Izvestia as saying that Lithuania only changed its name and restored its emblem, without any reference to the issue of independence.

"The information is very laconic," Landsbergis said.

The official Soviet news agency (Continued on Page 2)



A lone worker climbs on a chair to put up the flag of independent Lithuania on the Supreme Soviet building in Vilnius.

against the Baltic republic.

"The information that is coming in from there (Lithuania) is rather alarming," Gorbachev told Parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies. "The decisions which are being taken there affect the fundamental interests and destiny of the republic itself, of the people and of our entire state."

But Ligachev told reporters during a break in proceedings: "We will not use force (in Lithuania). We must resolve this by political means. Tanks will not help in this matter."

Kashmir will be dealt with firmly

India warns Pakistan

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times staff

NEW DELHI, March 12, (Reuters): President Ramaswamy Venkataraman today accused Pakistan of aiding Muslim secessionists in troubled Kashmir.

"My government has made it very clear that we will not tolerate such interference in our internal affairs," Venkataraman said in a speech to the joint meeting of both houses of Parliament.

The speech, which opened the 75-day budget session, was broadcast live by state-run television and radio.

He said the situation in the state, which had deteriorated in the past few days continued to be serious. He said the government was taking all steps necessary to contain violence and restore normalcy. At the same time, measures would be initiated to tackle the genuine grievances of the people in the state and to give an impetus to development activities. Similarly, the government would take firm and fair steps in Punjab without striking any compromise with terrorists and secessionists, he said.

The president's address is a statement on the policies and programmes the government intends to pursue in the year ahead and forms the basis of debates in both houses on the government's performance on all fronts.

Venkataraman said the government was prepared to cope with any external threat. He also said the communal situation in the country had eased significantly since the new government took over. Among other things, the president also outlined the various legislative and welfare measures the government

proposed to take up during the 75-day budget session.

Another highlight of the opening day was the tabling by Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate of the report of the finance states from the centre. The commission, headed by Rajya Sabha member NKF Salve, recommended substantially higher transfers of resources to

the states during 1990-95, at Rs 106036.43 crores as compared to Rs 56491 crores during the previous five-year period.

Though the increase is significant in money terms, it is only a 0.09 per cent hike seen as a percentage of the total revenue receipts of the centre during the two five-year periods.

Benazir vote ruled out

ISLAMABAD, March 12, (Kuna): President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has ruled out the possibility of asking Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to seek fresh vote of confidence from the National Assembly on March 20.

Talking to reporters in Lahore yesterday he said nothing would happen on March 20 and all apprehensions in this regard were unfounded.

Ishaq said the interpretation of the constitution was the job of courts and if anybody wanted any clarification of interpretation of any article of the constitution he should go to court.

By his statement Ishaq set at rest all speculation that he would ask Benazir Bhutto on March 20 to seek fresh vote of confidence from the National Assembly.

For the last couple of months a debate was going on whether Benazir should seek this vote or not according to opposition politicians.

The President said he was fully aware of his constitutional responsibility and knew it very well.

Without naming the opposition leaders the President said they should desist from making such a demand.

Both Baker and Whitelaw conceded that the government was going through a difficult period.

Officials said news coverage of the party's slumping fortunes, including a report that a group of Conservative rebels wanted former Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine to challenge Thatcher for the party leadership, was sure to be on the agenda.

But a key aide said: "This is a synthetic crisis, a media event. We shall continue as normal. We've been through these matters before."

Both Baker and Whitelaw conceded that the government was going through a difficult period.

DAY BY DAY

THE Chairman of the Agricultural Authority, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij in a press statement commented that solutions to administrative overlapping between the authority, Kuwait Municipality and other government bodies have been rotating in an empty circle for over three years.

Though, until now, efforts have been futile, Sheikh Ibrahim expressed his optimism at arriving at a solution without commenting on a time-frame.

Thus, it could be solved in the year 2000 or perhaps 2500 — the time factor is not important. Time is of 'silver and not gold'.

This is despite the fact that the issue is easy to solve and does not require all these meetings.

After the formation of the Agricultural Authority, all its affairs were supposed to be referred to the authority.

I really cannot comprehend why administrative issues here are so complicated, resulting in public dejection and frustration.

Zahed Matar

Top British Conservatives seek to steady party nerves

LONDON, March 12, (Reuters): Key colleagues rallied behind British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today after reports that one in four Members of Parliament for her Conservative Party wanted her to quit before the next general election.

Party chairman Kenneth Baker said the reports, based on straw polls by three Sunday newspapers, were misleading as less than half of the Conservative parliamentary party had been contacted.

"It is idle and vain speculation. Some of it is synthetic," he told a radio interviewer.

Opinion polls now put the Conservatives as much as 19 points behind the opposition

Labour Party, the broadest margin in nearly 20 years.

The government's unpopularity has been linked with a controversial new 'poll tax' on all adults which sparked violent protests across England last week and with the impact of rising inflation and high interest rates.

Deputy party chairman Lord Whitelaw, Thatcher's trusted number two until he left the cabinet on health grounds two years ago, called on fellow Conservatives to steady their nerves.

"It is best if the prime minister continues to lead the party and the country," he said.

Thatcher held a regular planning con-

Rebel soldiers vow to crush Cory before term ends

MANILA, March 12, (AP): Mutineers who led last December's failed coup attempt vowed yesterday to oust Corason Aquino before her term ends in 1992, but the president brushed off the warning as a desperate grab for attention.

"We promise you that Cory Aquino will not be able to finish her term as the illegitimate president and governor-general installed over us, against our will, by America," said a statement for

the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-soldiers of the Filipino people. Copies were distributed to news organisations.

"When will this be? We say to you, our countrymen, wait and see. This quiet is the lull before the storm," it added.

There was no immediate reaction from Aquino, but the president said in a taped radio broadcast that threats against her 4-year-old administration

were simply attempts by her opponents to get public attention.

"Our nation will continue to be plagued by troublemakers as long as there are elements who are selfish, ambitious and motivated by self-aggrandisement," Aquino said. "Some of them think that they need to create disorder to get public attention."

The reformist movement led the Dec 1-9 coup attempt in which 113 people were killed and more than 600 injured.

It was the sixth and bloodiest attempt to oust Aquino since she took power in the February 1986 uprising against the late Ferdinand Marcos.

During the December uprising, US war jets from Clark Air Base flew air support missions to aid beleaguered government forces. The jets never fired a shot, but their role was considered crucial in turning the tide on the first day of the uprising.

"Right now, we are not angry with

the Americans," the movement's statement said. "We are annoyed and hurt and disenchanted, but we are not angry, not yet, as long as they leave us alone to settle our internal problems."

"But if they interfere again and provoke us with their meddling, then we will consider acting against them, and the responsibility for this turn of events will be solely the Americans," it added.

The statement claimed the dissidents did not intend to launch a "coup" but considered their opposition to Aquino part of a "the unfinished revolution."

"We will oust this illegitimate president who, believing her own propaganda, now deludes herself into thinking that she has actually restored democracy when all that she has really done has been to open the gates to her plundering cohorts."

HK anxious over influx

HONG KONG, March 12, (Reuters): Hong Kong officials are anxiously eyeing a seasonal change in weather conditions in the South China Sea that in past years has heralded a significant increase in the number of Vietnamese boat people arriving.

There are fears that a lack of agreement with Hanoi on renewed forced repatriation could encourage a mass influx similar to last year's, when over 30,000 boat people swamped the colony's camps and detention centres despite Hong Kong's tough screening policy.

Government refugee co-ordinator Mike Hanson told Reuters the arrival rate for the year up to the morning was identical to that of last year at 514 people.

Lithuania alarms Gorb

(Continued from Page 1)

Tass said, however, in a Vilnius-dated story, "the newly elected Lithuanian Parliament voted to declare Lithuanian independence Sunday."

Landsbergis remained in Vilnius today and did not take his seat in Moscow at a meeting of the Soviet Parliament.

The Lithuanian Parliament urged Gorbachev today to recognise its newly proclaimed republic and invited him to begin talks on restoring its independence.

The statement, issued in Washington by White House spokesman Mario Fitzwater, called on the Kremlin "to respect the will of the citizens of Lithuania" but did not speak directly of recognition. The

United States never recognised the Soviet union's annexation of Lithuania in 1940.

But the Parliament broke into applause when Landsbergis announced, "Australia recognised the resolution of the Lithuanian Parliament."

He quoted a message received from the Australian Foreign Ministry by telephone which said Moscow should open negotiations with Lithuania.

In Warsaw, a Foreign Ministry spokesman described it as "a historic event" but said further comment would await a meeting of the cabinet.

● The International Olympic Committee reacted cautiously to the declaration of independence made by Lithuania, an area that has produced some of the Soviet Union's top athletes.

"It's a very delicate situation," said IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier.

'We are still going down'

Airbus engine failed to lift the plane

NEW DELHI, March 12, (Reuters): "Boss, we are still going down," were the penultimate words spoken in the cockpit of an Indian Airlines Airbus A320 which crashed in the southern city of Bangalore last month killing 90 people, informed sources said today.

"Ob shit," were the last, they said.

The sources, who had seen transcripts from the cockpit voice recorder and analysis of the readout of the digital flight data recorder, said the pilots were first warned of danger at around 150 feet (50 metres) by computer on the sophisticated aircraft.

"Boss, it is going down," was the first remark by the co-pilot to the pilot on the danger, they said.

Analysis of the flight recorder showed pilot and computer responded within about one second of the warning, but failed to get the engines to lift the plane out of its descent to Bangalore airport, the sources said.

The plane crashed just short of the runway and burst into flames.

The sources said the remaining 14 A320's of the airline's fleet would stay on the ground until a court of inquiry in Bangalore established the cause of the Feb 14 crash.

The planes, bought by India from the four-European nation Airbus Industrie consortium, were grounded four days after the accident.

The computer warning came

about seven seconds before the crash, which occurred in clear weather and raised doubts about the pilots' ability, the computer and the aircraft's engines, manufactured by International Aero Engines of the United States.

The Delhi government was upset by reports from Paris blaming the Indian pilots for the crash before the contents of the recorder were made public, they said.

Indian Civil Aviation Ministry investigators at a court of inquiry to be conducted by a judge in Bangalore are expected to raise questions about whether the engines had the power to lift the aircraft from its descent, the sources said.

Thais to drop River Kwai tourist scheme

BANGKOK, March 12, (Reuters): The Thai government will block plans for actors to play World War Two prisoners of war building the River Kwai "Death Railway" in tourist shows because of protests from Australia, the Thai news agency said.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke took up the issue after a wave of outrage in Australia from ex-servicemen and their families, an Australian embassy spokesman said.

"This would appear to have offended a number of

A hundred thousand allied prisoners of war and local labourers, including several thousand Australians, died when forced by the Japanese to build the Thailand to Burma railway across the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi province during World War Two.

A private company last week announced plans to develop the site as a tourist attraction. This would include trips on an old steam train with actors dressed as Japanese soldiers and gangs of prisoners working by the railway.

Ambassador to Thailand Richard Butler spoke by telephone on Saturday night to Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, who is visiting Denmark, Properjohn said.



Mourning in new style

Political activists have their heads shaved in New Delhi as a sign of mourning for the deaths of at least 30 people during violence in Haryana's assembly by-election last month. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pre-poll clash kills four in Bangladesh

DHAKA, March 12, (UPI):

Opposition and pro-government forces preparing for nation-wide balloting this week traded charges of fraud yesterday while their supporters continued skirmishes that left at least four people dead over the past two weeks, officials and observers said.

More than a week of balloting in 426 subdistricts was scheduled to begin Wednesday and last 10 days, although polls in 32 subdistricts have been postponed due to violence and other legal problems, Election Commission sources said.

Some 61 million Bangladesh voters are eligible to elect 460 officials who will handle the country's huge foreign-aided rural development programmes.

About 300,000 security personnel, including rural police and paramilitary forces, have been mobilised for the elections at a cost of about \$3.5 million, Election Commission sources said.

Observers nevertheless have predicted a continuation of the violence around the country that, according to police statistics, has left four dead and several hundred wounded over the past two weeks.

Police said at least 93 people were injured yesterday in

numerous clashes as politicians neared a campaigning deadline of midnight today.

Supporters of two candidates who belong to the ruling Jatiya Party (JP) clashed with batons and bombs at Terokhada near the port town of Khulna, 135 miles (250 km) south of Dhaka leaving 50 injured.

Workers in Terokhada assaulted a member of the parliament who tried to campaign for one of the candidates, and police opened fire to quell the crowd.

Workers of candidates of opposition Awami League and JP also fought at Shaharpara in Sylhet, 95 miles (150 km) north-east of Dhaka, leaving 15 people injured, including seven seriously, police said.

Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party supporters and JP workers fought a day-long battle at Sreenagar, 35 miles (60 km) south of Dhaka, leaving 20 hurt and 11 arrested, police said.

Major opposition leaders, speaking at separate news conferences, said elections could not be free under the government of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad. Ershad seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982 and then gave himself a five-year term in 1987 presidential polls that opposition labelled a farce.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian pullout

COLOMBO, March 12, (Reuters): There is a significant question over the process of withdrawal of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) from Sri Lanka, according to statistics available at the Joint Operations Command (JOC) of the island.

Within two weeks, very nearly 5,500 Indian soldiers have left the island for India from the northern port of Kankesanthurai and for eastern Trincomalee port as revealed by the JOC statistics.

Population growth
NEW DELHI, March 12, (AP): Nobel Prize-winning agronomist whose discovery of high-yield cereal varieties eradicated food shortages in many countries said yesterday the world's spiralling population growth could render biotechnological advances useless.

"In 1970 I said if this additional new information was brought in stream we could meet world food needs for food for the next 30 years," Norman E. Borlaug said at a seminar.

New threats
JAKARTA, March 12, (Reuters): Indonesian military chiefs have warned that the rolling back of communism in eastern Europe may throw up new dangers at home and in the Pacific region.

Sarko, head of a Defence Ministry research institute, said in a seminar that restricted communism might provide impetus and legitimacy to the banned Indonesian Communist Party, the Kompas newspaper reported today.

Insurgent attacks
BANGKOK, March 12, (UPI): Ethnic insurgents in Burma have attacked a Buddhist fair and derailed a train with a mine, killing seven people, government radio said.

"Insurgent organizations have been disrupting regional peace and tranquility and carrying out dangerous activities to kill and maim innocent travellers," Bangkok radio reported late yesterday.

Police battle
TAIPEI, March 12, (AP): Police and rioters clashed in a downtown street in central Taiwan yesterday killing one person, when each group mistook the other for gangsters, officials reported today.

Two other policemen were seriously injured in the gun battle in which 20 shots were fired, said police in Taichung, 180 kilometres (112 miles) southwest of Taipei. There were no civilian casualties.

First meeting
HONG KONG, March 12, (Reuters): China's Parliament, the National People's Congress, will meet in Beijing from March 30, the China news service said today.

It will be Parliament's first meeting since being launched a crackdown on the pro-democracy movement last June.

Fears of rabies
BEIJING, March 12, (UPI): China is literally going to the dogs, but the growing penchant among Chinese to keep a pet pooch has raised fears of rabies in the nation's crowded cities.

An article in the state-run China daily today estimated the Chinese population nationwide, as having grown to some 100 million. It added, however, that as many one million people are bitten each year by rabid dogs — and 5,000 of those victims die.



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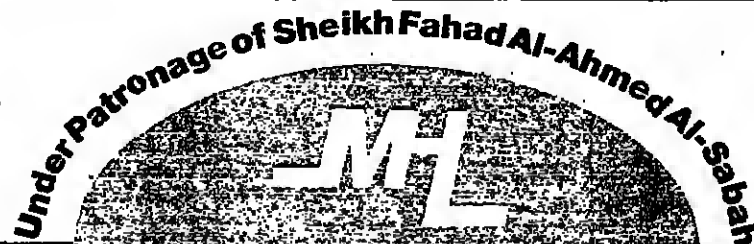
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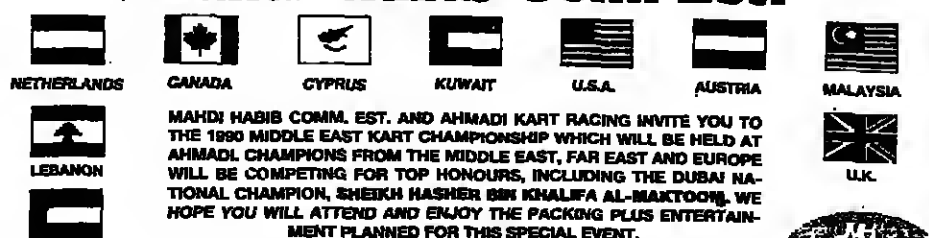
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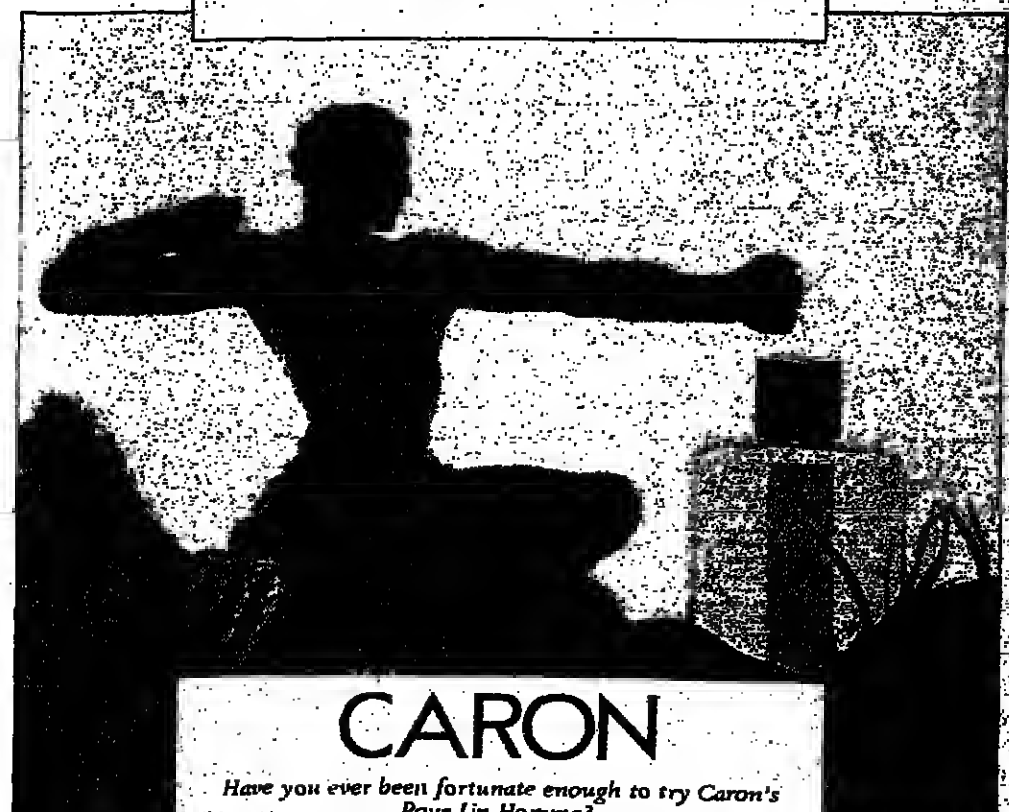
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PEOPLE IN PLACES

VENICE, Italy: High tides over the weekend filled the Venetian canals, which had been dangerously low for the week and imperilled the lifelines of this lagoon city.

The rising waters also helped the arrival of guests for Sunday's launching of the *Moro di Venezia*, the yacht belonging to Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, which will be Italy's challenger in the 1992 America's Cup.

Traffic is back to normal through all canals, but the problem of accumulated mud is something which must be solved soon, said an official of the city waterworks, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Traffic on scores of small canals had come to a halt last week due to accumulated mud and prolonged high tides.

The grand canal and other major waterways remained open to gondolas and motorboats.

Certainly last week's low tides were very unusual in this period of the year and was probably due to a long dry spell, said Antonio Mendini, a Venetian motorboat driver.

Water was about 60 centimetres (24 inches) below the normal level. It's ironic in a city where we always had problems from flood tides," he added.

The canals have not been dredged in 40 years. The mud and low tides combined to cause a number of problems including the transportation of sick people to hospitals. (AP)

ATHENS, Greece: A renowned collector of Russian avant-garde art, has died at his home outside Athens, sources close to family said on Sunday.

He died of heart failure on Friday, aged 77.

Kostakis was born in Moscow to parents of Greek origin. As a hobby he began collecting Russian abstract art from before and after the 1917 revolution.

Critics say his collection shed light on a little-known period in Russian art history.

In 1977 Kostakis donated most of it to the Tzafiris gallery in Moscow so he and his family be allowed to emigrate.

He kept some works and in 1981 the Guggenheim museum in New York staged an exhibition Soviet art but none from the avant-garde period. (Reuters)

Inmate killed trying to slip

CARSON CITY, Nevada, March 12 (AP) — An inmate killed when he tried to leave the state prison with the garbage was a victim of a policy that requires trucks to drive over refuse once it reaches the dump, a spokesman said.

"Obviously, we don't want inmates to escape," said Nevada state prison spokesman Glenn Whorton. "Anybody who hides himself in the trash is running that kind of risk. It's one way to protect the public."

Whorton said the purpose of the policy is to "disable" escapees and discourage "other inmates from escaping that way."

The body of Willis Walton, 26, was discovered at the dump yesterday. He apparently was crushed to death by the truck, authorities said.

FLORENCE, Italy: Hundreds of immigrant street vendors will be banished from Florence's historic district starting Monday to cut down on crime, Italy's police chief said.

The action follows a series of racially motivated attacks against African immigrants in Florence that have prompted a national uproar.

"We are not hunting down blacks, but thieves, drug pushers and prostitutes," Vincenzo Parisi, the Italian Police Commissioner, was quoted as saying Saturday during a meeting with officials in the northern Italian city.

"We must do this before the March music festival, the upcoming tourist season and the World Cup soccer championships."

He said illegal immigrants were responsible for half the petty crime in the province.

The new ordinance will be enforced with the help of about 200 extra police officers, newspapers said Sunday. Immigrants caught without a visa or with a criminal record will be deported. Vendors will be permitted to hawk their goods, provided they are not illegal reproductions, outside the city centre, in an area local officials will announce on Monday.

The most recent racially motivated attack in Florence occurred Saturday, when about 30 local residents beat up four north Africans. One of the immigrants was seriously injured and hospitalized. (AP)

Quayle picks up unusual souvenir

VALPARAISO, Chile, March 12 (Reuters) — US Vice-President Dan Quayle picked up an unusual South American souvenir yesterday despite the misgivings of his wife Marilyn, who said incredulously: "Dan, you're not getting that."

That was an anatomically-correct wooden Indian statuette which displayed its virility when its head was pulled.

Quayle, who was in Valparaiso for the inauguration of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, spotted the four-inch (10 cm) wood-carving while browsing in a waterfront souvenir shop.

The vice president burst out laughing at first. Then, egged on by reporters, he teased his wife that it would be a great thing to "bring home."

"Dan, you're not going to buy that," said Mrs Quayle.



Clarinet record

More than 1,200 clarinetists played a recital, including a march by Czechoslovak composer Jiri Sitr from the 1960s film "1,000 Clarinets," in an attempt to win a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Some 1,229 musicians aged from six to 70 turned up for the Sunday session in a Prague concert hall to form what the organisers, Czechoslovakia's state television, said was the world's largest clarinet orchestra.

A state notary was on hand to record the event and submit a claim to the Guinness Book of Records. The present record for largest orchestra was set by an assembly of 987 instruments and 20,000 voices in Massachusetts in 1872.



Rape every six hours in Jakarta

JAKARTA, March 12 (Reuters): Women are being raped in Indonesia at the rate of one every six hours, chief detective Kusparmono says.

The armed forces daily, Angkatan Bersenjata, quoted the police official today as saying 1,535 women reported rapes last year, 200 more than in 1988.

"On average it happened in every five hours 42 minutes," he told a seminar on violence in society. The incidence of rape grew at roughly the same rate as that of other crimes in Indonesia, where 85 per cent of the 180 million people are Muslim.

Kusparmono said women sometimes provoked men's desire, by wearing mini-skirts, for example.

He didn't do anything to help him," Applewhite said. He arrived shortly after the shooting.

Photographers said more than a dozen policemen shot at them to keep them from helping or taking pictures.

"Though there were bystanders who would have helped, the police wouldn't let anybody approach," said Applewhite. "Police shot at us."

"I am not aware of this incident," Maj. Jean Robert Renee, police commander of the Delmar district of Port-Au-Prince where the incident occurred, said in a telephone interview. (AP)

TOKYO: The organisers of a major floral show in Osaka have decided to kill two tiny frogs imported from the Seychelles so that visitors can get a better look at them, a Japanese daily reported on Monday.

Four of the eight mm (third of an inch) long frogs, thought to be the world's smallest, travelled to the west Japan city to go on display at the six-month show opening in April.

But organisers found they were almost invisible, especially when — as is their habit — they hid behind leaves, the *Sankai Shinbun* said.

The report, which could not be confirmed, said two of the frogs would be killed, preserved in formalin and put on show under magnifying glasses.

Sankai Shinbun quoted an Osaka flower expo official as saying: "It was a very sorrowful decision to kill the two, but this is the only way we can show the frogs to as many people as possible."

Catholic man shot dead in Belfast

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, March 12 (Agencies): Hooded gunmen shot and killed a man outside his home yesterday, police said, in a Roman Catholic area where IRA supporters were about to hold a rally.

The gunmen were in a car that had been hijacked earlier in a protestant area. They turned into the road where the victim was working on his car in front of his house, and shot him to death, police said.

Press Association, the British Domestic News Agency, identified the victim as Eamon Quinn, a 35-year-old Roman Catholic.

Supporters of the Irish Republican Army had been planning a rally in the Clonard area of west Belfast to commemorate the deaths of IRA men from the area. Leaflets notifying people of the parade had been distributed earlier. The event was cancelled.

Quinn, 32, was shot twice at close range outside his home in the Springfield road district by two men bearing shotguns, a Royal Ulster Constabulary spokesman said.

The gunmen opened fire on Quinn seconds after he shouted a warning to men working on a Sinn Fein mural on a nearby wall. Investigators said the men had been cleaning the mural to prepare for a ceremony by the Sinn Fein to remember slain IRA members.

As the mural workers escaped down an alley, the armed men turned their guns on Quinn, shooting him in the head and stomach.

Hearing the shots, a neighbour said he ran outside and found Quinn's wife holding her husband's hand and saying, "They have taken my husband."

The RUC spokesman said investigators believe the gunmen had intended to shoot two men working on the Sinn Fein mural. No organisation has claimed responsibility for Quinn's death, police said.

Police said the car used in the killing had been stolen a short time earlier in the Protestant Shankill road district. The vehicle later was found abandoned in the same area.

The shooting came just 12 hours after a Catholic taxi driver was wounded by gunmen who apparently lured him to Belfast hospital to collect a passenger, police said.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, said Quinn had no paramilitary connections. It accused the security forces of collusion in yesterday's attack, claiming members of the security forces were in the area at the time of the shooting.

Last week, Sinn Fein claimed police plotted with the outlawed Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force gunmen who claimed responsibility for killing Republican Sam Marshall minutes after he left a police station at Lurgan, County Armagh. The police have denied the allegation.

Security forces, meanwhile, disclosed the discovery of an IRA arms cache.

Cosby, Barr dominate People's Choice



Bill Cosby: 8th time running



Arsenio Hall shows he's number one.



Roseanne Barr: favouite actress.

Paula Abdul, Brown, Travis, Rogers win honours

LOS ANGELES, March 12 (AP): Bill Cosby and "The Cosby Show" won three awards, and Roseanne Barr captured two at the 16th annual People's Choice Awards last night.

Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman got the top nod in motion picture categories, and "Batman" took two trophies in the awards, determined by a national poll.

Musical honours went to Paula Abdul, Bobby Brown, Randy Travis and Kenny Rogers.

Arsenio Hall won in the first-time category as favourite late-night talk show host for his syndicated show, beating out Johnny Carson and David Letterman.

Cosby won his sixth straight trophy for favourite male television performer. He was

also named as favourite all-around male entertainer.

Miss Barr captured the same two awards in the female category, beating out Phylicia Rashad of "The Cosby Show" for favourite all-around female television performer.

The awards, determined by a nationwide Gallup organisation poll, were announced during a two-hour broadcast. Twenty-two categories span the entertainment world, from television and film to music.

Here is a list of winners:

All-around female entertainer: Roseanne Barr; All-around male entertainer: Bill Cosby; Female TV performer: Roseanne Barr; Male TV performer: Bill Cosby; Young TV performer: Fred Savage; TV comedy

series: "The Cosby Show"; TV dramatic series: "L.A. Law"; Male performer in a new TV series: Neil Patrick Harris; Female performer in a new TV series: Jamie Lee Curtis; New TV comedy series: "Doogie Howser, M.D."; New TV dramatic series: "Rescue 911"; Late-night talk show host: Arsenio Hall; Motion picture: "Batman"; Dramatic motion picture: "Steel Dawn"; Motion picture actor: Tom Cruise; Motion picture actress: Meryl Streep; Male musical performer: Bobby Brown; Female musical performer: Paula Abdul; Country music performer: Randy Travis and Kenny Rogers; World motion picture actress: Meryl Streep; World motion picture actor: Dustin Hoffman; World comedy motion picture: "Look Who's Talking."

Mitsubishi to build tallest building

TOKYO, March 12 (UPI): Mitsubishi Estate Co. Ltd., which last year purchased controlling interest in New York's Rockefeller Centre, announced today the start of construction of Japan's tallest building.

The 70-storey landmark tower to be built in Yokohama, west of Tokyo, will replace the 60-storey sunshine building in Tokyo as Japan's tallest building, the company said.

The landmark tower will measure 971 feet (296 metres) in height, compared with the Sunshine Building's 787 feet (240 metres).

Japanese skyscrapers are limited in height by the frequent earthquakes that make construction of excessively tall buildings dangerous.

The Mitsubishi tower does not come close to being the tallest in the world. That distinction goes to the Sears Tower in Chicago with 110 stories and a height of 1,454 feet (443 metres).

But Mitsubishi hailed the new building as a symbol of its position as one of the world's top developers.

"In terms of scale and the epochal nature of its technology and amenities, the landmark tower project is an auspicious start for our second century as a pre-eminent developer of large-scale urban projects in Japan and around the world," said Jotaro Takagi, president of Mitsubishi estate.

The landmark tower, designed by American architect Hugh Stubbins, will house 48-stories of offices in the lower floors and a 600-room hotel in the upper floors, the company said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Castro condemns East Europe's 'betrayal' of communism

MEXICO CITY, March 12, (UPI): Cuban President Fidel Castro delivered a stinging condemnation yesterday of the political reforms in Eastern Europe, accusing four Warsaw Pact countries of "betrayal" and saying the socialist bloc has vanished.

"What socialist camp can be talked of currently," Castro said in remarks carried by Prensa Latina, the official Cuban news agency, and monitored in Mexico City. "We can talk about the Soviet Union... The Soviet Union has not fallen into counter-revolutionary hands."

But the Cuban president, one of the last remaining hard-line communist leaders, said there was no longer a communist bloc. "In fact, the Socialist camp has vanished," he told the fifth congress of the Cuban Women's Federation in Havana.

Castro lashed out at the United States for sponsoring a resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission calling for continued monitoring of the Cuban human rights situation.

And he condemned four Eastern European countries for co-sponsoring or supporting the resolution, noting they

had taken the same position as the Panamanian government of Guillermo Endara, who was installed by a US invasion of Panama just three months before the vote, Prensa Latina said.

"(These motions) had the sponsorship of Poland and Czechoslovakia, which up to a few months ago were part of the socialist camp," Castro said. "What is left of those countries' dignity? What is left of the socialist community?"

"Despite big pressures, other countries stood up (against the resolutions)

without wavering," the Cuban leader said. "India stood firm. Mexico stood firm."

"(We say) thanks to the leaders of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria for the lesson they have taught us. We feel now more socialist than ever, if that were possible," Castro said. "We feel repugnance for those who have struck a colossal, deadly deal with the imperialism. We feel a stronger repugnance for betrayal."

Castro said the four Eastern European countries, by embarking on their reform programmes, were

collaborating with "imperialism's aggressiveness, granting it excuses and justifications to be more aggressive against our homeland."

"If some day imperialism dares to attack this country, rivers of blood will flow, and it will not be only our blood, but theirs too," he said. The crowd responded with loud ovations and anti-American chants, Prensa Latina said.

Despite his condemnation of Eastern Europe, Castro had only praise for the Soviet Union. He made no mention of Moscow's support for

reforms.

"Fortunately there exists a Soviet Union, keeping a coherent foreign policy striving for peace. The Soviet Union has not fallen into counter-revolutionary hands. Let's hope it will not fall," he said.

"The Soviet Union has not disintegrated, let's hope it will not disintegrate. There has not been a civil confrontation in the Soviet Union, let's hope there will be none, but dangers do exist and are very real," Castro said.

The Cuban leader reiterated his

decision to continue some assistance to Nicaragua under the government of president-elect Violeta Chamorro, who takes office April 25. Cuba has said it would continue health and other forms of non-military aid to Nicaragua, especially reconstruction efforts for the victims of a tornado in bluefields on the Caribbean Coast.

"We cannot cut this co-operation," Castro said. He accused the United States of launching "a dirty war," then deepened the Nicaraguan economic crisis and led to the electoral defeat of the ruling Sandinista Front.

Mongolian politburo resigns

Party monopoly ends, opposition demands met

BEIJING, March 12, (Agencies): The entire politburo of the ruling Communist Party in the nation of Mongolia resigned today and the party leader, under pressure from a growing pro-democracy movement, proposed changing the party's constitutionally guaranteed pre-eminence, reports reaching Beijing said.

The developments were the latest in a series of stunning moves toward reform in Soviet satellite states, set off by policies instituted by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Foreign diplomats in the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator, reached by telephone from Beijing, said they had no formal confirmation of the moves but said they apparently had

been discussed at a special session of the Mongolian party central committee.

In reports reaching Beijing, the Soviet News Agency Tass and the East German News Agency ADN reported from Ulan Bator that Mongolian leader Jambyn Batmönkh had announced the resignation of the entire politburo of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

Batmönkh, in a 40-minute address, said the secretariat of the policy-making central committee also resigned, the reports said. He said the party was ready to co-operate with opposition groups in further reforms.

Batmönkh further announced that, on March 21, he will ask the Mongolian parliament, the people's great Hural, to amend article 82 of the nation's constitution, which guarantees the party as "the leading power" over the government and people.

It was not immediately clear if the communist leader was specifically opening the door to a multi-party system of the sort that Gorbachev has endorsed in the Soviet Union.

Batmönkh announced the politburo decision in a speech to the 120-member central committee that was broadcast live. He also said he was giving up his No 1 job in the party, though Mongolian officials did not rule out the possibility that the officials who tendered their resignations today might be re-elected.

As chairman of the Hural's presidium, Batmönkh is also Mongolia's head of state, and that job was not affected by today's announcement.

The politburo decisions must be approved by the central committee but all are expected to pass. The central committee, which began meeting after the politburo session, will continue its meeting tomorrow.

Batmönkh said the party's main task "is to build human and democratic socialism on the soil of Mongolia. It is important to renew our party leadership with younger people... people who are clever and constructive and for perestroika," the Russian term for economic and social reform.

The moves were concessions to protesters who crowded the central square of the capital, Ulan Bator, on Friday to demand change in the party's leadership and an emergency party congress.

The atmosphere in the capital today was "one of interest but not one of tension. In the air, there's an atmosphere of expectation," said a foreign source contacted by telephone from Beijing.



Boris Yeltsin shakes hands with a deputy at the extraordinary third Congress of the Soviet People's Deputies in the Kremlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Powerful Soviet presidency

Assembly defers vote

MOSCOW, March 12, (Reuters): The Soviet parliament postponed a vote today to give Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev sweeping powers as executive president, including a right to rule by decree.

Debate on the measure, opposed by many radicals fearing a slide toward dictatorship, and deputies from some outlying Soviet republics, was adjourned until tomorrow.

Gorbachev, 59, is already the most powerful man in the country as communist party chief and head of state, but his legislative powers are limited and largely formal.

The new post of "President of the Soviet Union" would make Gorbachev equivalent to American and French heads of state.

In some ways a Soviet executive-style president would have wider powers, have authority to impose a state of emergency, rule by decree and to appoint and dismiss ministers.

The measure needs the support of two-thirds of the 2,245

deputies.

Radicals opposed to the new presidency claim the support of several hundred members from outlying republics which fear its powers will impinge on their sovereignty.

Gorbachev, noting the absence of the chairman of the Lithuanian delegation, said, "the information coming from Lithuania is alarming, and momentous decisions are being taken there that will affect both Lithuania and the Soviet Union."

The legislature of the Baltic republic voted yesterday to declare its independence after 50 years of Soviet rule, and most of the Lithuanian seats at the congress in the Kremlin were vacant today.

"We do not have any information of the exact nature of the documents" adopted by Lithuania, Gorbachev said. "That will be found out in the course of the congress and discussed if necessary." He gave no indication he would seek to prevent the move, although he has

vociferously opposed it.

Stankevich said that Gorbachev could turn the presidency issue into a vote of confidence in his own stewardship. If the Soviet leader threatened to resign, Stankevich said, he and the other deputies will go home what he wants.

"I will vote for Gorbachev," Stankevich said.

Another deputy, Yuri Chernichenko, said he supported the presidency proposal but would insist that the president be elected directly by the people, and not the congress.

The proposal before the parliamentary body provides for the first president to be elected by the congress to a four-year term, and for direct, nationwide election of future presidents to five-year terms.

Progressive Moscow parliamentarian Alexei Yablokov predicted a boycott of the vote on the presidency by many of the deputies from Georgia, Moldavia, Azerbaijan, Estonia and Latvia.

Soviets start leaving Hungary

HAJMASKER, Hungary, March 12, (Reuters): Soviet soldiers boarded a train out of Hungary today to a sendoff from a brass band and a banner telling them: "Go home as quick as you came."

The 139 men and 27 armoured personnel carriers began the three-day journey back to the Soviet Union 48 hours after Moscow and Budapest signed an accord to remove the 50,000 Soviet troops from Hungary by June 30, 1991. Moscow had proposed August 31, 1991, for the pullout.

"I think the overwhelming majority of our people wanted to see this withdrawal as fast as possible," Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Ferenc Somogyi told reporters.

"This is a very important milestone both in the history of our country and of Soviet-Hungarian relations," he said at a departure ceremony.

The Soviet Army, which began a partial withdrawal in 1989, has been in Warsaw Pact Hungary since World War Two. The troops have been particularly unwelcome since reinforcements were rushed in to crush a 1956 uprising against communist rule.

As soldiers clutching cakes and carnations boarded the train in the village of Hajmasker, 100 km (60 miles) west of Budapest, demonstrators held up a banner which read: "Hurry up. Sunny Azerbaijan is waiting for you."

The protesters were from the Radical Federation of Young Democrats, one of several opposition parties contesting the speed of the pullout under last Saturday's accord.

They and other parties have reserved the right to renegotiate a much faster exit if, as looks likely, they defeat the ruling Socialist Party on March 25 and April 8 in Hungary's first free parliamentary polls since 1945.

The train was the first of about 2,000 that will ferry Soviet troops home under a withdrawal deadline similar to one Moscow also agreed with Czechoslovakia.

The soldiers, seen off by waving villagers and a Soviet military band, were mostly conscripts from a motor-rifle battalion of a Soviet tank regiment based in the western town of Veszprem.

A further 160 soldiers from the same unit would leave from another station in the area later in the day, Soviet officers said.

'Down with Securitate' rally

BUCHAREST, March 12, (AP): Anti-government demonstrators yesterday marched through the capital and Timisoara, the cradle of the December revolution, protesting what they see as continuing prevalence of communists and the dreaded Securitate.

"Down with Iliescu," chanted demonstrators who jammed the western city of Timisoara's Victory Square, referring to interim President Ion Iliescu, who led the National Salvation Front that took power during the chaos of the revolution and now heads the multi-party council of national unity.

The crowd, estimated at up to 15,000 by Ion Micu, an editor at Radio Timisoara, also called for the resignation of Interior Minister Gen. Mihai Chitac.

Chitac has been accused of direct involvement in the violent suppression of the December demonstrations in Timisoara in which scores were shot by forces loyal to Ceausescu. The violence in Timisoara, located about 400 kilometres (250 miles) west of Bucharest, sparked the revolution that swept the country and toppled Nicolae Ceausescu on Dec 22.

However, supporters say Chitac contributed to the success of the revolution by siding with the Timisoara demonstrators against the Securitate, Ceausescu's dreaded security force.

Several hundred people also demonstrated in the northeastern city of Iasi, calling for the exposure of Securitate and the removal of former communists from state bodies, the national news agency Rompres reported.

"The front confiscated the revolution," read one sign carried in the Bucharest protest attended by about 1,000 demonstrators.

The front, dominated by former communists who ran afoul of Ceausescu, has since been forced to share power in the multi-party council of national unity until May 20 elections.

Reds complain of growing intolerance

GDR spy service may go

EAST BERLIN, March 12, (AP): The head of East Germany's Communist Party complained today about growing intolerance against his discredited organisation and said party members are being barred from university studies.

At today's session of the negotiations with reform groups, communist leader Gregor Gysi said, "already, qualified students who belong to the party are not admitted to universities. Let's not replace our old intolerance with new ones."

During the 40 years of hardline communist rule, party members were often given preference in pursuit of higher studies and job opportunities in East Germany.

Gysi made the comments today at the 16th and last session of the talks that have been held in East Berlin weekly since Dec 7 between the communist-led caretaker government and 16 reform groups and political parties.

The session was expected to focus on plans for a new East German constitution and the government progress for dissolving the hated secret police network.

The first free parliamentary elections since East Germany was founded in the former Soviet occupation zone in 1949 are scheduled for Sunday. The vote will seat a new legislature with authority to move toward union with West Germany.

East Germany is closing down its foreign espionage service, responsible for some of the greatest spying coups of the cold war, and calling home its agents, a government commission said today.

Werner Fischer, a member of

the government commission dis-

banding the old Ministry for State Security, told journalists the espionage section would be cut from 4,000 to 250 officials by June.

"Those 250 will be responsible for the orderly withdrawal of our agents. This is a great problem because only a small number of them are GDR (East German) citizens," Fischer said.

Fischer said the Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung (HVA) intelligence service was being moved from the sprawling former security headquarters in East Berlin to a smaller building. It was being dismantled as a last stage in the break-up of the entire "Stasi" state security apparatus.

Western intelligence officials believe the HVA records would almost certainly have been copied before destruction for use by the Soviet KGB intelligence agency in Moscow.

Jump, walk, pray or duck — politicians campaigning for East Germany's first free election next Sunday are doing just about anything to attract support.

As the campaign for East Europe's first fully democratic poll in 40 years enters its final week, the tactics are getting dirtier, the stunts more daring, the tempers shorter.

Communist leader Gregor Gysi, his party facing certain defeat, threw caution to the wind and parachuted out of an aeroplane — for the first in his life.

"The world looks very beautiful from up there. Let's make it better down here," said the reformist Gysi after floating to earth attached to his instructor under a double parachute.

Estonia also joins Baltic freedom drive

TALLINN, USSR, March 12, (AP): The Estonian congress yesterday denounced what it called the Soviet occupation of the tiny Baltic republic, calling for UN help in restoring the "sovereignty" of the territory.

The congress, made up of about 500 representatives, has no formal political power although it considers itself the representative of ethnic Estonians living in the republic and abroad.

A statement issued by the congress declared that Estonia was illegally annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 and is "to this day still occupied by the USSR."

The congress appealed to the United Nations to demand that "the Soviet Union restore the independence and sovereignty of the republic of Estonia," and called for international peace-keeping forces to aid the transition.

The congress is scheduled to discuss Estonia's borders and the status of non-Estonians living in the republic.

Heseltine: Conservative favourite as Thatcher's successor

LONDON, March 12, (Reuters): Michael Heseltine is a man on the move.

Four years after he walked out of Margaret Thatcher's cabinet, he travels Britain and the world virtually non-stop, mostly alone with just a carry-on bag to cut waiting time.

Far from forgotten, the 56-year-old darling of the Conservative Party lecture circuit has appearances booked a year in advance, a diary as bulging as a world leader, and only the luxury of weekends off to mark the difference from his time in office.

Heseltine fields questions asking whether he is running for prime minister with answers like: "There's not a vacancy at the moment."

Whether his travels will take him to 10 Downing Street, the official residence of Britain's prime minister, has become a hot topic as Thatcher faces what is widely viewed as the deepest political crisis of her career.

Such is the glom enveloping the government, serve national Sunday newspapers surveyed Conservative Members of Parliament at the weekend, asking whether they thought she should resign and who should take her place.

In the three surveys, 25 out of 100, 56 of 146, and 41 of 171 members said Thatcher should resign before the next election due by mid-1992.

Backing Heseltine with more than double the support of all other contenders named, 37 of the 100, 104 of 146 and 51 of the 171 said he was their first choice if Thatcher did step down.

The triumphal polls were carried out by the generally pro-government Sunday Times, the right-wing Mail on Sunday and the neutral Independent on Sunday.

The Conservatives trail the opposition Labour Party by up to 19 points in opinion polls, mainly on widespread opposition to a "poll tax," on all adults

which will replace property levels to fund local government.

Anti-poll tax protests flared into violence outside town halls in London as well as far-flung areas of England last week.

Itters in financial markets that the poll tax was seriously weakening the government added to its other economic problems of inflation and high interest rates and led to a sharp drop in the value of the pound sterling last week.

The poll tax uncertainty has put into sharper focus the possibility of the government losing the next election, or Mrs Thatcher being unseated before then, said independent economist David Morrison.

Heseltine stormed out of a cabinet meeting in January 1986, after a fight with Thatcher over the future of Britain's only helicopter-maker.

His resignation was also a rejection of her autocratic leadership style.

Algeria fishermen said they wanted a written pledge from the Minister of Agriculture and Fishing, Carlos Romero, that they could fish in Moroccan waters without risking fines.

Morocco has increased fines for illegal fishing tenfold.

The dispute will be reviewed next Monday by a joint commission monitoring a four-year fishing agreement signed in 1988 between the European Economic Community and Morocco. (Reuters)

Opposition to set up contact group: Bulgaria's non-communist opposition on Sunday agreed to set up a contact group to try to work out common action before multiparty elections scheduled for June.

The loosely-worded accord was adopted at the end of a three-day conference of opposition groups and parties aimed at uniting the non-communist opposition before the elections.

The declaration was signed by the Union of Democratic Forces, the main opposition coalition, as well as 11 other parties, including six members of another opposition alliance, the smaller political opposition block and five non-aligned parties. They were all either not invited to join the UDF or decided they did not wish to.

Differences over the criteria for UDF membership and the leading role assumed by the strongest opposition grouping had marked much of the debate at the three day meeting.



Heseltine

Anti-drug man wins Bogota primary

BOGOTA, March 12, (UPI) Cesar Gaviria, a strong supporter of the war against the cocaine cartels, won the Liberal Party's presidential primary yesterday, and early returns in the congressional elections showed the Liberals making substantial gains in the two-house legislature.

The country was relatively calm throughout the day, despite a two-month anti-election campaign of violence by leftists and repeated threats to disrupt the balloting. More than 200,000 soldiers and police guarded the 46,000 polling stations nationwide.

Gaviria, a 43-year-old politician who jumped into the race following the assassination of the Liberal Party's leading can-

didate last August, netted more than 50 per cent of ballots cast in the presidential primary, Radio RCN reported.

The assassination of candidate Luis Carlos Galan, an opponent of the cocaine cartels, prompted Liberal President Virgilio Barco to declare a war against the nation's drug lords and re-establish a treaty with Washington to allow the extradition of wanted drug traffickers to the United States.

Gaviria has supported the government's anti-cartel policy. Like Barco, he says he would refuse to make a deal with the cocaine barons, who have called a unilateral ceasefire hoping to bring the government to the negotiating table.

In a speech at the luxurious Tequen-

dama Hotel in the capital, Gaviria claimed victory in the primary—the first ever held by a Colombian political party to select a presidential candidate.

"This is the victory of Luis Carlos Galan," he told a crowd of cheering supporters. "This is a night of happiness but the victory of today is not the end, but the beginning."

All five of Gaviria's Liberal Party opponents publicly acknowledged his victory. The Liberal Party is the largest in Colombia, and Gaviria had been expected to defeat Social-Conservative candidate Rodrigo Lloreda and Patriotic Union candidate Bernardo Jaramillo in the general election.

Radio RCN said early election returns

showed the Liberal Party marking substantial gains in both houses of the Colombian legislature.

Barco Saturday night urged Colombians to vote to strengthen democratic institutions and achieve "national reconciliation."

The electoral registry office reported 14 million Colombians were eligible to vote for new senators, congressmen, local officials, mayors and—for the first time—the presidential candidate for the Liberal Party.

Barco said by voting, citizens were "rejecting violence in all its forms, as much in the form of narcoterrorism that threatens our democracy as guerrilla violence."



Colombian police search a voter as he enters a voting area in downtown Bogota. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aylwin enters in victory

Triumph marred by violence

SANTIAGO, March 12, (Reuters) Patricio Aylwin, Chile's first civilian president since a bloody 1973 coup, entered Santiago to a tumultuous welcome yesterday after taking over from military strongman General Augusto Pinochet.

But violence street clashes broke out between police and crowds as Aylwin, a 71-year-old moderate lawyer, appealed to Chileans in his first speech as head of state to work together to rebuild democracy.

"Minutes before he began speaking from a balcony at the Moneda

palace, crowds who had been waiting hours for a sight of their new leader burst through barriers. Police fired tear-gas canisters. Groups of youths pelted police with stones, bottles and iron bars ripped from railings.

Police fired tear-gas canisters. Groups of youths pelted police with stones, bottles and iron bars ripped from railings. Eyewitnesses reported scores of injured demonstrators and police said 30 officers had been hurt. After Aylwin left the palace, Red Cross workers set up a makeshift first aid post in front of the Moneda.

In his speech Aylwin said: "Chile is returning to democracy and is returning without violence, without bloodshed, without hate."

Tens of thousands of Chileans had lined the route and surrounded the palace as Aylwin drove into Santiago from the Congress building in the Pacific port of Valparaiso where the handover ceremony was held.

Holding banners saying "The people won" and "Free at last, live at last," and shouting anti-Pinochet slogans such as "He's gone, he's gone," the crowds roared as Aylwin's motorcade came into view.

Aylwin's triumphal entrance was in stark contrast with the departure of Pinochet, who ruled for more than 16 years, longer than any other leader in Chilean history.

Demonstrators threw sticks, tomatoes, apples and shoes at Pinochet as he drove up to the Congress building, surrounded by a cavalry honour guard.

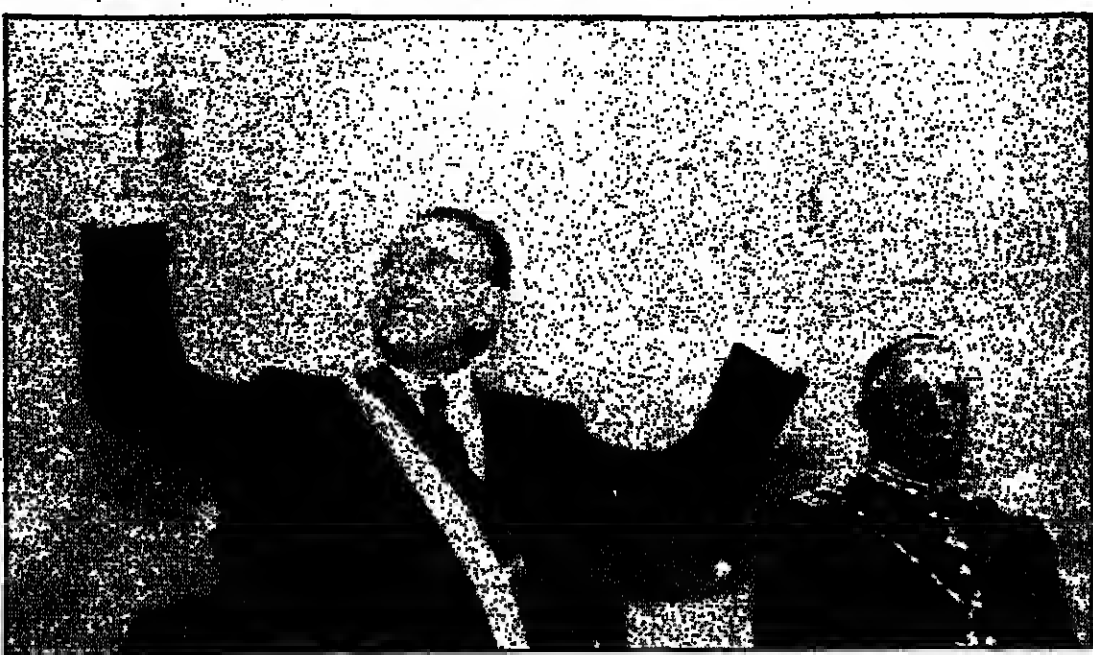
Police said five bombs exploded early Sunday, including one that damaged the home of a former top official of Pinochet's feared secret police, the National Information Centre. The small bomb broke windows in the home of Marco Derpé, a former sub-director of the secret police who are accused of the murders and torture of political prisoners.

As he entered the building, members of the broad-centre to left-wing coalition which backed Aylwin in December's presidential elections shouted: "Assassin, assassin."

Thousands of people lined the streets of Pinochet's route, waving signs saying "Thank you my general" and "We will never forget you." They shouted "Pinochet, Pinochet" and "he's going to return, he's going to return," crushing against barriers to get a look at the white uniformed figure who raised both hands in acknowledgement of the cries.

Pinochet, who once said not a leaf stirred in Chile unless he moved it, stepped down as president after losing a 1988 plebiscite designed to confirm his power for eight more years.

More than 1,500 people died in the coup and tens of thousands were arrested or fled into exile. The Catholic Church says more than 772 people disappeared in the five years immediately after the coup as Pinochet's regime, condemned year after year by the United Nations and human rights bodies, waged an implacable war on leftists.



New Chilean President Patricio Aylwin gestures after receiving the presidential sash during inaugural ceremonies. Outgoing president General Augusto Pinochet (right) looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)



Chamorro greeted

Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro is greeted by supporters after a church service. Chamorro is in Houston for medical treatment on her knees which she broke during a fall at her home in Nicaragua. (Reuters wirephoto)



Haitians watch a cooking oil factory burn the morning of March 11 in Port Au Prince. The factory, which was owned by a supporter of the military government was looted and burned early Sunday morning. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela calls on Tambo in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, March 12, (Reuters) Nelson Mandela flew to Sweden today and met Oliver Tambo, acting president of the African National Congress, for the first time in 28 years.

Mandela, on his first overseas trip since being freed from jail in South Africa last month, arrived to a statesman's welcome from neutral Sweden, a strong supporter of the ANC.

The ANC's two foremost leaders plan to discuss the future of their black nationalist movement in South Africa. Life-long friends, they both suffered exile or jail for their political views in the ANC's fight against white minority rule.

Mandela, 71, and Tambo, 72, met amid strict security at Haga, a picturesque castle on a lake near Stockholm. The Swedish government has placed the old fortress at Mandela's disposal during his five-day visit.

"It is a privilege to welcome you here," Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said in a message. "You will find you are among friends and you can count on our support for justice and liberty in South Africa."

Local ANC officials said there would be no public meeting between the two ANC leaders because of fears over the health of Tambo, under treatment in Sweden at government expense after he suffered a stroke last year.

Tambo's wife Adelaide and South African mineworkers' leader Cyril Ramaphosa were among Mandela's party arriving at Stockholm's Arlanda airport from Tanzania.

At least 17 people were killed and six police officers were injured in factional fighting in black townships over the weekend, officials said today. Police used guns and tear-gas to break up protests.

Meanwhile, Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he favours turning South Africa into a federation of states to take into account ethnic differences. Buthelezi said in an interview that he opposes any plans to nationalise the economy.



Mandela

Namibia to join Commonwealth after freedom

LONDON, March 12, (Reuters) Namibia will be admitted to the Commonwealth as its 50th member on gaining independence from South Africa on March 21, the Commonwealth secretariat said today.

"The Commonwealth had responded with unanimity and joy to the wish of the democratically elected government of Namibia to join the Commonwealth on independence," said Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal in a statement.

"Namibia ... will bring further strengths to the Commonwealth both generally and in the special context of the new prospects for the resolution of long-standing problems throughout southern Africa," he added.

The statement said Commonwealth leaders extended a welcome in advance to Namibia as far back as 1975. This welcome was re-affirmed at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur last October, it said.

Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh will represent India at Namibia's independence ceremony next week on his first abroad since taking office. President Ramaswamy Venkataratnam said today.

"It is a matter of deep satisfaction that the last bastion of colonialism in Africa is at long last crumbling with Namibia poised for independence," Venkataratnam said in a speech at the opening of Parliament.

Switzerland will recognise and establish diplomatic and consular relations with Namibia starting promptly with the new Africa state's independence day on March 21, the Swiss government said today.

Jubilant amid reprisal fear

Avril flees Haiti with US help

PORT-AU-PRINCE, March 12, (AP) Lt Gen. Prosper Avril left Haiti with his family today aboard a US Air Force transport, the US embassy said, two days after massive unrest led the military ruler to relinquish power.

Amid lawlessness and bloodshed, opposition groups intent on forcing a swift transition to civilian rule had called for a general strike unless Avril went into exile. But the strike apparently would go on today because Avril's departure came too late for it to be cancelled, said opposition leader Marc Bazin.

The deposed ruler, his wife, Marie-Ange, two of their children and a servant left the country at 6:22 am (11:22 GMT) on a C-141 transport jet sent for them from Charleston, South Carolina, said US embassy spokeswoman Susan Clyde.

She said Avril was headed for Homestead air force base near

Miami, but his ultimate destination was not disclosed.

"The US decided that our facilitation of (Avril's) departure might help calm the situation in Haiti and help the transition of power—the turnover of power, and a turnover to a civilian government to organise elections," Ms Clyde said.

Thousands of people milled about Port-Au-Prince, the capital, but the mood was more one of disbelief than celebration. "He's gone, he's gone," people were heard saying.

The Rev. Bertrand Aristide, an enormously popular Roman Catholic priest and bitter critic of military government, said residents should remain alert to the possibility of army reprisals.

"We can smile, but we can't laugh yet," Aristide said on Radio Haiti Inter after Avril's departure.

At least 24 people had been killed in seven days of protests

and clashes that have left this Caribbean nation in turmoil. Most of the victims have been civilians slain by soldiers or police.

"The people have shown how much they love democracy by dying for it," Aristide said in an earlier interview with Radio Antilles.

A coalition of opposition leaders, keeping to a timetable set when Avril relinquished power, said it would be its choice for an interim president.

A member of the unity assembly opposition coalition, Jean-Claude Roy, said the choice would be Supreme Court Justice Ertha Trouillot, a highly regarded jurist and widow of former bar association president Erns Trouillot.

"She is the first woman judge in the country. I think that is already a trait of her character. She was shocked but she expected it. We had told her."

NEWS IN BRIEF

SA violence

JOHANNESBURG, March 12, (Reuters) Black areas of South Africa remained tense today although the death toll from political violence fell.

Killings, bombing and looting in black townships and homelands have been taking an average daily toll of six lives in recent weeks but police reported only two deaths in the past 24 hours.

A black policeman shot dead a man who tried to take his shotgun in poverty-stricken Botshabelo settlement in Orange Free state province and police found the stabbed body of a 15-year-old boy in Nancefield township in Transvaal province.

Djohar wins

MORONI, Comoro Islands, March 12, (AP) Said Mohamed Djohar captured the presidency of the Comoro republic in a two-way race to replace his slain predecessor, according to final results today.

The National Election Commission said Djohar, who was serving as interim President, won a seven-year term in yesterday's run-off election with 55 per cent of the vote, to 45 per cent for opponent Mohamed Taki.

US nuclear test

STOCKHOLM, March 12, (Reuters) A Swedish defence research institute today reported seismic signals consistent with a US underground nuclear explosion on Saturday.

The Hagfors Observatory said in a statement the signals had been recorded from a presumed blast at the Nevada test site at 1600 GMT on Saturday.

There are a number of measuring stations in Sweden which regularly monitor Soviet nuclear tests.

Anti-Aids strategy

HAVANA, March 12, (Reuters) Cuba yesterday defended its policy of massive Aids testing and obligatory isolation of all Aids carriers, saying it had managed to control the spread of the killer disease and save thousands of lives.

"Cuba has managed to stop the disease reaching the epidemic proportions it has reached in other nations and so has saved the lives of thousands of people," the official Communist Party newspaper Granma said in its weekly international edition.

Second brother held

BEVERLY HILLS, California, March 12, (AP) The second of two sons charged with killing their millionaire parents at the family's mansion here quietly surrendered to police at Los Angeles international airport.

Erik Menendez, 19, had arranged through his attorney to turn himself over to detectives, said Beverly Hills police Lt Boh Curtis. He has been playing in a tennis tournament in Israel.

Boys play soccer with severed head

NEW YORK, March 12, (UPI) Police today were investigating a grisly mystery uncovered by three youths who were horrified to learn that a cloth-covered ball they found on a South Bronx street was used for an impromptu soccer game was a severed human head.

And detectives were investigating whether the head and two arms and legs found along with it were linked to a torso clad only in underwear discovered last week in Fort Tryon Park in Upper Manhattan.

The three youngsters—ages 9, 10 and 13—were playing Saturday in South Bronx when they found a cardboard box, said Sgt Mary Wrenson, a police spokeswoman.

"They found a box containing two plastic bags and a ball-like object wrapped in a cloth jacket," Wrenson said. "They started to play soccer with the object and then they threw it into a trash can which had a fire in it."

Wrenson said that Ralph Rodriguez, whose son was one of the youngsters, made the gruesome discovery that the trio was kicking around a severed head when he spotted something poking out of the plastic bag.

"He noticed a leg protruding from one of the bags," Wrenson said. "He investigated and found other body parts."

"That's when they realised the ball they had been playing with was a severed head," the sergeant said.

Wrenson said the medical examiner would try to determine whether the body parts discovered Saturday had been severed from a bloody torso found yesterday by a city parks department worker near the cloisters.

The torso, with legs, arms and head missing, was found March 4 in a cardboard box, wrapped in a plastic bag and two blankets in a footpath just off the Henry Hudson parkway.

"They dumped the torso over a wall," said Sgt Nick Vreeland, another police spokesman. "There was quite a bit of blood at the scene."

Vreeland said the wounds on the torso were "clean-cut" possibly indicating the limbs and head had been sawed off.

"The legs were severed near the hip, the arms were severed near the shoulder and the head was severed close to the base of the neck," Vreeland said.

The torso was still warm when it was found, indicating the man was killed shortly before the body was discovered, Vreeland said.

Police found the man's clothing, including a shirt and pants, but the torso was clad only in underwear when it was found, the sergeant said.

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Private sector participation in projects a must: Houti

Local building materials to be improved

PUBLIC Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti has said that the ministry's strategy for the next stage involves the private sector in a major role in project construction. He added that decentralised operations will be the main feature of this stage.

He told a local daily that main items of this strategy included the reduction of the time needed for the design and construction of projects, through further co-ordination to simplify measures with all agencies concerned. He commented that the next stage would witness increasing support to local contractors.

The establishment of national establishments for design, supervision and contracting, that are financial and administratively qualified is the sole guarantee to overcoming difficulties and eliminating obstacles hampering timely construction of projects, the official said.

He added that the next stage is to further develop and enhance local building material industries to be able to cater to the actual requirements of the ministry's projects. This requires continuous co-ordination and dialogue between the industrial sector and operators in the local market under the umbrella of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

He revealed the ministry's intention not to allow any changes to ministries' projects except with the official approval of the competent ministry provided that the required change did not exceed 5 to 10 per cent whereby to maintain the variation of orders under control which had been of late decreasing considerably through persistent ministry efforts.

The ministry has plans to set up five administrative branch centres for which sites had already been designated in each of the five governorates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Students union

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah tomorrow patronises the ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of Kuwait Students National Union.

Minister of Higher Education Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan will attend the ceremony on behalf of HH the Crown Prince.

The ceremony is scheduled to be held tomorrow at 6:30 pm at Holiday Inn Hotel in Farwaniya.

KAC conference

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) today held its annual conference for 1990 which will continue until Wednesday.

The annual conference of KAC usually is attended by senior KAC officials including directors of foreign offices.

GCC exercise

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah hailed the performance of the GCC joint forces participating in the fourth Peninsula Shield exercise, which ended here yesterday.

In a statement to reporters, Sheikh Nawaf underlined the concern of the GCC defence ministers toward upgrading the level of the GCC forces.

He conveyed the appreciation of HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to the GCC forces participating in this exercise.

Quran House

MANAMA, March 12, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Minister of Aqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid A. Al Jassar arrived here last evening on an official visit to Bahrain.

He was received at the airport by his Bahraini counterpart Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Manama Faisal Al Hajji.

Jassar attended the inauguration of Ba'it Al Quran which took place today with the presence of the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Razzak returns

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): Minister of Public Health Abdul Razzak Yousef Al Abdul Razzak returned home last night from the US after being hospitalised there for seven months.

He was received at the airport by a number of ministers and top officials from the Diwans of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier, in addition to senior officials at the Health Ministry.

Fazel leaves

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): Iranian Health Minister Iraj Fazel left here today after a four-day official visit.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Minister of Planning and Acting Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, in addition to other senior officials at the ministry.

During his stay here the Iranian health minister attended part of the second international conference of the Middle East Association for Organ Transplant which was inaugurated here yesterday.

Moroccan minister

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): Kuwaiti-Moroccan relations were described by a Moroccan minister as firm, strong and based on co-operation and joint understanding regarding Arab and international issues, press reports said.

Moroccan Minister of Information and Interior Al Edris Al Basi said that relations between the two countries are developing in economic, security and information fields.

The minister said that the director of Moroccan News Agency will visit Kuwait within the next few days to discuss joint co-operation.



Dental exhibition

Primary school children visit the 11th Dental Week exhibition in Jabriya. The exhibition was opened recently by the head of the Kuwait Dentists Society Dr Ibrahim Al Yaseen.

Excellent pre-natal care

41pc pregnant Kuwaiti women are obese: report

A STUDY on nutrition for pregnant women in Kuwait was conducted by the Nutrition and Catering Department expert and consultant Dr Fawziya Al Awadi and Dr Izzat Ismael from Alexandria University's nutrition department who is also a consultant at the United Nations. The study included nearly 2000 pregnant ladies from different areas in Kuwait. Personal interviews were conducted with each one of the ladies in order to gather the data required.

Awadi stated that the importance of this study is represented by defining common nutritional habits under the rapid social and economic development in the State of Kuwait.

The study also aimed at finding the negative aspects of these habits in order to prepare nutrition awareness programmes which will encourage ladies to maintain a healthy diet.

With respect to the source of nutritional information received by mothers in Kuwait, the study indicates that television is the first source of information well received by most pregnant women, then comes mothers and the Nutrition and Catering Department at the Ministry of Public Health.

Results show that television occupies greater value in the field of nutritional awareness in general and especially for mothers to be in particular.

Regarding the nutritional condition of pregnant women in Kuwait, research results stresses that 41 per cent of Kuwaiti females are overweight. On the other hand the percentage of under weight females was estimated at 4.8 per cent. The study pointed out that obesity is one of the most common problems in Kuwait.

The study indicated that 61 per cent of pregnant ladies believe that they should eat more while pregnant. Milk is considered a high priority food despite the fact that 13.2 per cent of the sample mentioned the fact that they don't consume milk while pregnant.

The study revealed that smoking was not common among pregnant ladies. Only 5.8 per cent of the sample smoked while pregnant. Another good picture which shows the high performance of pre-natal health care in Kuwait revealed that 85.1 per cent of the sample are subjected to full medical supervision during pregnancy. This percentage is considered to be one of the highest in the world, at the same time.

GCC Chamber representatives meet in Iraq

TO review methodologies to combat the spread of fake commodities in the Arab Gulf states, the sixteenth meeting of the Arab Gulf Chambers Union Council began in Baghdad.

The meeting attended by representatives from the Arab Gulf Chambers reviewed a suggestion presented by the chambers union to establish an Iraqi investment company with joint Iraqi and Gulf capital which will aim at supporting industrial projects which have economical and technical feasibility.

The meeting also discussed proposals to form societies to co-ordinate and follow up duties among similar industrial branches in the Gulf states. It also discussed a proposal to provide assistance and loans to developing and war affected states. The meeting also addressed the increase of shipping fees among international and Gulf ports, in addition to industrialists and merchants problems experienced in the export of products and commodities.

The second deputy of Bahrain Commerce and Industry Chamber, Hassan Mohammed Zain Al Abedeen stressed that the meeting is vital to bring to light world changes related to economical issues and Gulf states future investments. Abedeen underscored that the meeting will thoroughly examine several vital issues, including the methods to be adopted to combat the rapid spread of imitation products being sold in the area.

Students ask for more labs at Paaet

11 centres around Kuwait

THE Public Authority for Applied Education and Training represented by the Community Service and Continuous Education Department presents a wide range of artistic and educational programmes for residents and citizens. The department was established to sharpen students abilities and talents and to assist them in facing life challenges in order to shorten dependence on expatriate manpower.

A local daily conducted a survey on the negative and positive opinions on community service programmes presented by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Director of the Community Service and Continuous Education Department at Paaet, Engineer Ghouloum Al Attar stressed that the authority seeks a specific transformation in all its educational, training and artistic activities. He added that the authority is currently aiming at organising special evening programmes which will enable students to get practical experience in any field they choose.

On the other hand, students opinions on community service programmes varied. Some of the students demanded more time for programmes, while other students pointed out that programmes offered only involved allied subjects. A number of students called upon officials to open laboratories in order to improve their scientific and practical abilities particularly in computer programming.

However, Attar pointed out that the number of students at the department is constantly increasing. He added that the number of students who benefited from department services and programmes totalled 16,000 citizens and residents in different sciences.

He stated that there are several women oriented courses offered by the authority like cooking, physical education, swimming, tailoring and computers. He pointed out that these programmes witnessed high response in the past few years.

He explained that the authority has provided 11 centres in different areas of Kuwait, two of which are in Jahra, and Mangaf which have been established with the co-operation of the Ministry of Education. He added that another centre was also established at the Central Prison.

With respect to the department's activities, he stated that the authority represented by the Community Service and Continuous Education Department seeks to contact all society groups. He mentioned that the department co-operates with many establishments to extend services to different sectors of society. Such establishments include the ministry of interior, the ministry of education, the ministry of social affairs and labour, and Zakat House. He added that the department will introduce new programmes for the handicapped and their parents in co-operation with the Special Education Department at the ministry of education.

Cabinet studies 1990-2015 strategy

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): The cabinet yesterday held a regular session in which ministers reports and a number of domestic issues were tackled topped by the country's strategic plan for the period 1990 to 2015.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rasheed told reporters that the Cabinet, sitting under chairmanship of His Highness Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, listened to the Polish Premier's message to Sheikh Saad dealing with his country's developments and wishes to expand relations with the Arab countries in addition to bilateral relations.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Muhammad Al Ahmad briefed the ministers on outcome of the 18th session of the Arab Labour conference recently held in Cairo, Rashed said.

He added that Finance Minister Jassem Al Kharafi explained results of the second meeting for the GCC tripartite committee in Riyadh on the impact of recent international changes on the GCC countries.

The state minister pointed out that the ministers deliberated the country's draft strategic plan for the years 1990-2015 in which an analysis was made on regional and international changes and their effects on local environment and development prospects in Kuwait over the coming two decades.

He added that the draft plan's analysis targets explaining details of the future picture of Kuwait including restructuring the national economy, tackling the human factor element and boosting co-operation and integration on the Gulf and Arab levels.

Other issues were reviewed and appropriate decisions taken, Rashed concluded.

Sulaibiya workshop owners unhappy

A LARGE number of industrial workshop owners in the Sulaibiya area said that other industrial areas in the country enjoyed a high level of support, while their area has been neglected by the government and the General Stores Company.

Mujib Al Dousari, the owner of a car repair garage in Sulaibiya stressed that many complaints which had been communicated by shop owners had not been replied to by the government. He added that owners pay large amounts of money as rent for their working areas, without receiving any loans from the government to help them in the initial years of setting up their business which require large overheads.

Speaking on the issue of rents, Abdullah Fahad Al Khadiri, another owner in the area said that he believes the main problem is the inflated rents owners have to pay. He said that for his medium size shop, he pays KD418 per month and added that an equivalent plot which he owned in Shuwaikh Industrial Area cost him KD200 a month.

Costs He said that taking into consideration the small number of customers at the area, the running costs of workshops exceeds KD2,500 per month. Further, he said that one of the conditions to obtain a plot at Sulaibiya Industrial Area stipulates that the applicant should be retired and not employed in any other job. Consequently, the workshop income is the sole source of income.

Abdul Rahman Al Khalaf stated that he had presented an application for a loan to the General Stores Company, but was refused. Other owners also commented that the Industrial Bank has also refused loan applications on the pretext that it only deals with large scale industrialists.

Academy-museum combo in Bahrain

\$10m 'Home of the Quran' opens

MANAMA, March 12, (AP): The Amir of Bahrain today inaugurated a \$10-million academy-museum combination designed to promote Islamic studies and preserve rare manuscripts of the Quran.

Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa toured the ornate, palm-shaded compound of arabsquely engraved marble and tinted glass, called "Beit Ul-Quran," or Home of the Quran. Flanked on both sides by his prime minister, crown prince and cabinet ministers, the Sheikh inspected exquisite Arabic calligraphy of Quranic verses inscribed on doors and walls of the structure.

The brief ceremony was attended by religious endowment and Islamic affairs ministers from Egypt, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

The two-storied building on the south-end side of the Mubarrak Island is viewed here as an embodiment of a growing religious fervour and oil-fuelled generosity among Muslims of the Gulf region.

Beit Ul-Quran is the brainchild of Husein Undersecretary Abdul Latif Kanoo, who contributed to the project with money and rare copies of the Quran.

Apart from the Bahrain

leaders, major financial donors include kings and Amirs of Gulf countries, former oil minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani of Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, and others.

Donations According to Kanoo, donations from kings and sheikh amounted to about \$2.2 million, businessmen and dignitaries contributed \$3.1 million and \$4.7 million came from anonymous persons, he said.

Kanoo told reporters the Bahrain government has agreed to put up 50 per cent of the \$265,000 annual administration costs for five years. Beit Ul-Quran's board of managers will seek means of generating sufficient income to run and maintain it, he said.

He paid tribute to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, "the three countries that put up effective financial contributions to the project."

"In addition to the Gulf region, we have had contributions from people in countries as far as Taiwan, the United States, Korea, and elsewhere. From Muslims and non-Muslims — a total of 1,033 persons," said Kanoo, "of these, 300 donated their money anonymously, and 733 donated with their names mentioned."

The marble-tiled exterior of the building resembles pages of the Quran, complete with engraved verses and classical Islamic art embellishments.

The centre comprises a mosque, school, lecture hall, library and museum.

The mosque has a capacity of 150 worshippers, the library will hold about 80,000 volumes related to Quranic research in Arabic, English and French.

There are special facilities for scholars and researchers, complete with word processors, stenographers and recording devices. The lecture hall will be used for seminars and conferences.

The heart of the centre is the museum, with a collection of the world's "most valuable and priceless manuscripts of the Quran," according to Kanoo.

The collection includes the first edition of the Quran in Latin by Dr Martin Luther, as well as versions in other languages. A last-minute contribution in the form of a translation in Welsh was offered by British Embassy Third Secretary Stephen Harrison, himself a Welshman, provided by his parents Joy and Tim from Cardiff.

The nine-hall museum also holds works related to Quranic history since the birth of Islam in the 7th century.

Arabic certificate

CERTIFICATES granted by foreign schools to students tested in Arabic will not be accepted for admission or enrollment at Kuwait University after this year.

Speaking on the issue, the undersecretary at the Ministry of Education, Abdul Rahman Al Khodari said that arrangements for this year and the years to come to hold the secondary exams in Arabic have been finalised.

Speaking to a local daily, the official said that co-ordination will be effected in this respect with the Private Education Department and that students passing the test will be granted a special certificate confirming their performance in Arabic.

Liberal policies sustain markets

BAHRAIN is well on course in sustaining its growth as the Gulf's financial and banking centre during the nineties, thanks to the government's extensive economic diversification policy, emphasis on non-oil sector market and a liberal capital market environment, Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, Ibrahim Abdul Karim revealed at a major international banking conference, recently.

In his opening address on the opening day of 'Euro-money Conference' at the Sheraton Hotel, the Bahraini minister attributed the success of the island's financial market to the diversification policy at a time when oil prices and proceeds slipped to lower levels.

Bahrain has been able to attract major regional and international banks because of its strategic position, fiscal and regulatory advantages, lack of restrictions on foreign payment, excellent infrastructure facilities and satisfactory working and living conditions, commented Abdul-Karim while underlining the advantages the country offers for financial institutions.

He added that Bahrain is an ideal base for international banks to do business in the region, which enjoys one of the largest concentrations of mineral resources and accumulated financial resources in the world.

In view of the importance of global economic integration in terms of fiscal and banking activity the Bahraini minister expressed hope that the European Market of 1992 along with the impact of recent changes in Eastern Europe will have a positive effect on the Gulf market.

Abdul-Karim told about 300 delegates that the GCC economies, after overcoming a difficult economic phase during the eighties, are now poised to "take off" this decade as serious efforts are now being made to identify investment opportunities and improve the business environment in the region.

Standards The Bahrain government is committed to maintain the high standards of the financial market and ensure further improvement in the services in this sector. The opening of the stock exchange in the country last year will also boost the financial infrastructure in future, said Bahrain's finance minister.

The minister stated that Bahrain is ready to meet the challenge of meeting the changing needs of customers by providing new services.

Hamad Saud Al Sayari, governor of Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (Sama), said in his speech that the GCC financial system is adequately strong to meet the future challenges in the region in all aspects of development. He said the capital back of GCC economies is solid and based on the considerable financial resources and technology available in the region.

The governor of Sama forecast an upward trend in the GCC financial markets in terms of meeting domestic requirements, including those of sophisticated clientele as well as international financial markets.

Meanwhile the Governor of the Central bank of Kuwait Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah told the conference that capital market development in the GCC economy can be sustained this decade by the active participation of the private sector in financing major projects throughout the region, while the existing GCC stock exchanges can considerably boost financial sectors with the participation of international investors.

According to Sheikh Sabah, GCC financial markets must restructure their existing financial institutions in view of growing "internationalisation" of markets everywhere as new "ingenious" techniques have been developed by markets to optimise performance and reallocate the various risks involved in both domestic and overseas transactions.

While presenting his paper entitled 'Development on Capital Markets in the GCC countries', Sheikh Salem stressed that GCC stock exchanges, which form backbone of the region's markets, must deal with bigger international 'institutional players' rather than limit activity to a few domestic firms.

'Wasta' continues to plague society

PERSONAL connections (wasta) are considered to be more the norm than the exception in obtaining petitions. This situation exists, though the government has promulgated laws and regulations that have been designed to preserve the rights of other individuals.

Some residents consider "wasta" as an effective means to circumvent routine formalities. They said that it is essential to overcome long lines of petitions and also consider it to be good evidence of the strength of social relations in the country.

Conversely, a section of citizens stated that "wasta" tends to become a destructive tool when it exceeds illogical values and deprives others of their rights. They added that it is considered to be one of this society's most dangerous pests.

Khaled Abdullah Al Mzaini stated that "wasta" is highly common in Kuwait society, he indicated that in small societies like Kuwait, this phenomenon exists due to the large number of relatives and friends. He said that 85 per cent of all work is done through wasta and does not include Kuwaitis, but also other nationalities. He said that many non-Kuwaitis look for "wasta" through Kuwaiti friends to speed up the completion of some petition.

Mzaini added that using "wasta" or personal connections may be beneficial if it leads to speedier completion of petitions, though at the same time it could be highly dangerous, if it deprived others of their rights. He stressed his support to the "wasta" if it made things less complicated without exceeding the limits of the law.

Mzaini gave an example stating that after graduation from college, his family name played a big role in finding him a job at the desired place and post. He stated that non-Kuwaiti groups in Kuwait had a big effect on the spread of "wasta" through connections with big Kuwaiti families which enabled them to enter all fields and commercial activities in particular.

Hashem Abdul Mehsen stated that this phenomenon has caused a big problem which is represented by the suffering of youths who are in search of jobs. He added that best way to combat it is to stop its proliferation by following the law and strictly enforcing it.

Nouri returns

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): Minister of Education Anwar Abdalla Al Nouri returned home today morning after attending a conference on education in Thailand.

During the week-long visit, Nouri visited Malaysia to attend a hastily arranged meeting for UNESCO to discuss recent executive changes introduced by the Director General of UNESCO, Fredrick Mayor.

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Turki hopes for stronger OAPEEC role

Increasing demand for oil foreseen

THE Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) is looking forward to stable oil prices in the future, according to a senior OAPEC official who added that member states of OAPEC seriously endeavour to maintain stability to avoid any crisis in the oil markets.

Abdul Aziz Al Turki, the secretary general of OAPEC based in Kuwait, commented that Arab states are the first to suffer from fluctuations in oil prices and hoped

that the role of OAPEC will be strengthened by the co-operation and co-ordination extended by member states.

Commenting on the oil scene, he said that it is showing signs of improvement and that the demand for oil will increase in the coming years and these positive indicators should create suitable circumstances to increase co-operation among Arab Oil Exporting Countries.

Turki added that the oil industries

which are highly developed in the region can be used as a vehicle to increase links among the Arab oil countries. "OAPEC can play a vital role in the exchange of oil information among members as also supervise joint oil projects," the official said.

Turki pointed out that all projects operated by OAPEC registered profits last year compared to losses in previous year and looked forward to a brighter future by

companies co-operating with OAPEC.

He went on to state that the dialogue between OAPEC and the EEC which began in 1989 was essential as the European countries are the most important partners for member states. The two parties will hold a joint seminar during the middle of this year. Talks are also in progress with the EEC to reach an agreement on Arab petrochemical exports to West Europe, Turki said.

Remove obstacles to justice: Ghanem

THE former minister of justice, Mohammed Al Ghanem, was quoted as commenting in an interview with a local daily that there are in some instances, obstacles which impede the enforcement of judicial judgements.

Calling for an end to any intervention in the affairs of the judiciary, Ghanem also called for revising the current laws to be in keeping with advanced developments.

Ghanem was further quoted as saying that he did not uphold the strict implementation of the Kuwaitisation process at the expense of the judicial system.

Speaking on the problems in the community as a result of the employment of domestics, the official said that rapid economic and social changes in Kuwait had brought in their wake significant changes in the family order which resulted in women entrusting housemaids with the day to day running of the household. The resultant bearing on children leaves a lot to be desired, he added.

Effect

Citing that in some households, there were three to four domestics, he said that the influx of this type of help had negatively affected the national customs and values and will affect the Arab and Islamic identity.

On the issue of divorce, the official said that this problem threatens the very fabric of the structure of the community and said that Islam paid special concern to the importance of family cohesion. Divorce, he said, has two facets, one could be deemed as a social problem with its inherent negatives and the other could be represented in a form of solution of family conflicts.

He termed the divorce problem in Kuwait as a dangerous one, and attributed it to social and educational disparity.

Police officers training course

THE six-week third Public Relations Training Course for 25 police officers concluded yesterday.

According to the Ministry of Interior's Public Relations Department, 19 officers attended from the Ministry of Interior, one from the Ministry of Defence, one from the National Guard, three from the Yemen Arab Republic and one from Oman.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Lt. Col. Ibrahim Nageesh, the director of the Officers Training Institute confirmed the importance of the aspect of public relations for enhancing self-confidence among policemen. Addressing the graduates, he commented that the success in the field of public relations could only be realised by setting up close relations with the public.

On the conclusion of the ceremony, Major General Abdulaziz Ismael Jumrah, assistant undersecretary for security affairs distributed certificates to the graduates.

Bahrain gets a taste of Cajun music

MANAMA, March 12, (AP): The Gulf island state of Bahrain got a taste of Cajun music this weekend under a cultural exchange programme with the United States, and even some Americans in the audience were intrigued.

Country western in French, foot-stompin' ballads juxtaposed with African percussion, minor key waltzes that change into down-home Rhythm 'n' Blues, all came as part of the presentation by Beausoleil, which is French for beautiful sun.

The indigenous American music cultural presentation was sponsored in Bahrain by the US Information Service and the island's Ministry of Information.

The uncommon art of Cajun music was born around the bayous of Louisiana by French-speaking Acadians who settled there in the mid 1700s.

Even more uncommon was a presentation of Cajun music in an Arab country whose inhabitants usually prefer their own traditional music to Western styles.

Yassin Taqi, a 43-year-old Bahraini commented: "It's the first time I've heard music like this, it didn't sound quite American."

Melange

Toes tapped and bodies swayed, as the five member ensemble got down to their soulful and joyful tunes in French, to an audience of Arab, Asian, Indian, and American listeners.

Language was no barrier in communicating the lively melange of the harmonies to an audience that was just as assorted. Bahrain's half million population are one third foreigners.



Paaet ceremony

The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) held a ceremony for graduates of training courses and special courses for the year 88/1989. The ceremony was held under the patronage of the Minister of Higher Education Dr. Ali Al-Shamlan and attended by Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Minister of Electricity and Water Dr. Homoud Al Rqobah, Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharan, Director General of the authority Dr. Abdul-Rahman Al Mihalhan and other senior officials.

Mihalhan said that 3,300 trainees joined the training centres, 2,865 trainees joined the special courses in 88/89. He added that graduates that year reached 1,545 trainees. The numbers of trainees at these centres and courses will increase in future to meet the demands of local market for national manpower.

Minister Shamlan distributed the graduation certificates to the graduates.

Transplant conference

Surgeons discuss liver grafts on second day

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times staff

A TOTAL of 35 papers were discussed yesterday during the Second International Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation.

Dr. Y. Kang from Department of Surgery, University of Pittsburgh—USA, talked about the current anaesthetic management in clinical liver transplantation.

He said that liver transplantation anaesthesia is defined as the critical care of patients with multiple organ dysfunction while providing adequate analgesia and muscle relaxation.

Kang added that recipients may have hepatic encephalopathy, hyperdynamic circulatory state, inadequate ventilation and right-to-left shunting, impaired synthetic function, fluid and metabolic, derangement of coagulation, renal dysfunction and impaired fluid, acid base and electrolyte balance.

The surgical procedure is highly invasive and massive bleeding as well as compression of major vessels are common. He said that reperfusion of the grafted liver can have severe impact on the circulation of recipients. Therefore, a successful outcome depends on a comprehensive understanding of pathophysiological changes associated with end-stage liver diseases and aggressive, tight control of homeostasis, and a close communication with the surgical team.

Yang added that particular emphasis is placed on maintaining cardiopulmonary function, electrolytes and acid-base balance, and blood coagulability and avoidance of complications related with massive blood transfusion. To achieve this goal physiologic variables should be monitored frequently and treated accordingly. Following specific equipments are necessary:

the thrombelastograph for monitoring coagulation, the rapid infusion system to avoid hypovolemia and a state laboratory facility.

Another participant, Dr. S. Todo of the Department of Surgery, University of Wisconsin (UW) solution for extended preservation of hepatic grafts.

Todo said that limitation of safe homografts has been one of the most important problems in liver transplantation. With conventional solutions of the intracellular-electrolyte type solution or of the plasma-like solution, which have been used for the last decade, the operation was obliged to be completed within 8-to-10 hours when the graft was harvested.

He added that in 1987, Blezer et al reported improved preservation of animal and human livers using a newly developed solution at the University of Wisconsin (UW). Their claims have been supported by the results of a large clinical trial conducted soon after in their centre, in which more than 500 human liver grafts were preserved with UW solution to date for periods up to 35 hours. He said that in comparison to the Euro-Collins' solution, the UW solution permitted remarkably extended preservation period (more than twice) better post-transplant graft quality, reduced rethrombosis. In addition the UW solution allowed more effective use of organs, personnel and facilities.

Transportation of grafts between distant centres can be achieved and better performance of transplantation surgery has become routine. Thus it can be said that the remarkable effectiveness of the UW solution in liver graft preservation has revolutionised liver transplantation at every level.

A number of doctors and professors from the Department of Surgery at the University of Munich Transplantation Centre, W. Germany spoke about the long term results in renal transplant with cyclosporine (CsA).

Dr. W. Ilmer said that from Feb 1982 to Dec 1989, 1,310 cadaveric renal transplants were done using cyclosporine as the dominant immunosuppressive agent at the centre. Data from 1,000 consecutive renal transplants (Feb 1982 to Dec 1987) were analysed and assessed. CsA protocols used over that period were: induction treatment CsA alone (1982) or in combination with other immunosuppression agents (1983-1987). Six months after transplantation, CsA monotherapy was attempted in all patients considered to be "immunologically" stable.

He added that the overall five-year graft survival rate is currently 50.0 per cent (including retransplants, immunologically and clinically high risk patients). Although, the number of patients analysed so far is still poor, the "seven-year-graft" survival rate is currently 45 per cent, showing a trend to plateau formation between the 5th and 7th year.

He said early graft rejection i.e. immunological failure during the first three months, was observed in 90 cases. Chronic progressive renal dysfunction was the cause of transplant loss in 177 cases. Technical failure (n=21) and death of the patient with functioning graft (n=58) were less frequent. In patients with well preserved renal allograft function for five years or more, long-term steroid-free immunosuppression was practicable in 78 per cent. Thus there is a fair chance for immunosuppression without steroid complication in renal transplant recipients.

Social security

10-day training course opened

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

DIRECTOR-General of the Public Institution for Social Security (PISS) Fahad Mazyad Al Rajaan yesterday opened the 10th regional training course for Asia and the Pacific. The course is designed to offer training to middle management officers of social security organisations in Asian countries.

This is the first time that such a course has been organised by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) here in co-operation with PISS.

Opening the course, attended by 80 delegates from 19 countries, Rajaan stressed the "urgent need to provide social protection and improve the social security systems" in the world.

Social security introduced in 1955 developed gradually to encompass all Kuwaiti employees in both the private and public sectors, including the army.

"They enjoy the same rights and benefits under a comprehensive, efficient and integrated but flexible system adapting to changes," he said.

Insurance

Social insurance covers all nationals with a monthly contribution of between 5 and 10 per cent of an employee's salary. This covers retirement after 15 years of service or after the age of 50 or after 20 years of service for under 50 year-olds; disability pension is given in case of total handicaps; sickness pension; death grant equal to twice the salary or the pension is paid to survivor. In case a person dies, his heirs are entitled to "survivors pension." A lump-sum benefit is also paid to retired employees.

In June 1989, a total of 89,040 people had been insured under the social insurance scheme. Each earned an average salary of KD442. In that year, there were 20,280 pensioners drawing an average of KD500 pension per month. Widows and orphans, who are also covered by social security, numbered 17,682 costing the government a total of KD1,722,696 last year.

Training

Addressing the participants, Har Mander Singh, ISSA's regional director for Asia and the Pacific underlined the significance of holding the training course in Kuwait. He said since Kuwait joined ISSA in 1978, it has played a valuable part in the grouping to promote and protect social security throughout the world.

ISSA, established in Belgium in 1927, aims at protecting, promoting and development social security. It meets every two years, its next meeting will be held in Indonesia in 1991. Some 306 social security institutions in 121 countries are its active participants.

Information

Through annual training programmes, it strives to stimulate progress of social security by improving technical and administrative methods of implementation; carry out research and encourage exchange of information to study overall developments in the field and since the early sixties, it has designed regional programmes to meet the special needs of four regions: Asia, America, and the Pacific and Europe.

The ten-day training course in Kuwait will cover "Trends and developments in social security - world-wide," application of computer techniques under social security; "financing social security and investment of funds." Participants will also review different ways of overcoming difficulties arising from operation of social security schemes.

Control on drivers licences to stay

Deportation for repeat traffic offences

A SENIOR traffic department official was quoted as reaffirming that the department will not ease controls on distribution of driving licences.

Driving licence applications will continue to be made available only to the special categories exempted from the ban and the department sees no reason to expand the scope of the exceptions, according to assistant director general of the department Col. Salem Al Roumi.

He added that the General Traffic Administration (GTA) is now concentrating on establishment of driving schools to graduate qualified drivers so as to ensure the safety of the public and drivers.

Roumi denied that the GTA stringently inspects cars and commented that officials only need to be assured that the cars meet with all safety standards and are roadworthy in order to protect drivers, passengers and pedestrians. "We just want to ensure that the vehicles will not be the cause of any injury," the official added.

The official, in an interview confirmed that a ministerial decision ordering deportation of expatriates who commit serious traffic violations has gone into effect.

"Many expatriates have been deported from the four governorates who have been repeatedly convicted of such offences," he said.

The GTA is presently concentrating on introducing the central control of traffic signals which aims at reducing traffic congestions. The project will cover all areas of Kuwait.

Accidents

Commenting on road accidents in Kuwait during 1989, Roumi said that a total of 203,084 were reported in different capitals as follows: Capital 5,150, Hawalli & Farwaniya 10,118, Ahmadi 2,854 and Jahra

2,262. These accidents resulted in 34 deaths and 596 injuries in the Capital; 136 deaths and 1,271 injuries in Hawalli & Farwaniya; 64 deaths and 621 injuries in Ahmadi and 67 deaths and 478 injuries in Jahra.

Roumi said that GTA reported 252,317 traffic violations last year. Capital: 130,269; Hawalli and Farwaniya: 47,868; Jahra: 29,603 and Ahmadi 14,538 violations. He added that Motorways Command also seized 9,201 violations and emergency patrols seized 20,838. He added that these figures show that traffic patrols in the Capital cited the largest number of traffic violations followed by the traffic patrols at Hawalli and Farwaniya. He added that a study issued by GTA showed that direct losses of road accidents totalled KD17,822,223 last year while indirect losses amounted to KD110,752,926.

Costs

These losses include the costs of medical treatment and funeral costs; and the compensation paid by the insurance companies. He added that losses that are borne by individuals directly, payments of policemen and investigators in road accidents were not included in these figures.

Also speaking on the issue, Col. Ahmad Abbas Agha, director of the Traffic Judgements Execution Department disclosed that the department refers individuals who were issued three traffic judgements to the officials at the deportation department.

Elucidating, he said that for a violator to be so referred, the individual would have to have three traffic judgements issued against him, one of which would have to be a jail sentence. He added that these strict measures had to be adopted to protect lives and to underscore the need to comply with the traffic rules.

The director indicated that a special team has been formed to investigate those drivers who have committed dangerous traffic violations. This will particularly include those who have been issued jail sentences.

He added that some of the judgements are issued in absentia and cannot be executed since those convicted are outside the country — particularly non-Kuwaitis. In some cases, traffic violators change their addresses without informing official authorities, necessitating issuing warrants of arrest, entering their names in the computer and sending their particulars to border posts.

Col. Agha indicated that the Traffic Judgements Execution Department has as of last year, issued a total of 52,841 judgements. Of these, 28,946 were judgements for traffic violations and 21,827 judgements related to traffic accidents. He added that a total of 1,270 driving licences were withdrawn and 798 individuals were jailed.

Returning to the issue of alterations introduced to the traffic law, he said that a special committee had been formed to review loopholes in the existing traffic law which had been formulated 14 years ago. Studies conducted resulted in recommendations by the committee to modify the current traffic law by introducing stricter punishments on dangerous violations.

Replying to a query on the establishment of a prison for traffic violators, Col. Agha said that all traffic offenders are currently housed in Doha prison, which is specially segregated for traffic violators. This is intended to keep them away from other types of common criminals.

Agha hoped that a special prison will be established for traffic violators which will serve as a traffic school to spread traffic awareness.



Administration training course

A special training course on the role and duties of administrative leadership held by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training opened this week at the training centre in Dasmah.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Yaqoub Al Refai, the course scientific co-ordinator, and the dean of the Commercial Studies College Hassan Abshar Al Tayeb. A speech was delivered by Tayeb in which he welcomed trainees and stressed the importance of training.

The course aims at providing modern methods applied in problems analysis in the administrative field in addition to developing trainees' abilities in decision making and exchange of expertise.

A number of trainees will participate in the course from different government ministries and establishments.

Zakat house to help poor debtors

A PROPOSAL recommended by a local daily to establish a fund to help poor debtors of the public sentenced by the courts, has been adopted by Kuwait's Zakat House, according to Khaled Al Hussaini, director of the assistance department.

The official disclosed that the Zakat House administration had agreed in principle to allocate a special budget for the fund. The house is in touch with the Enforcement Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Justice to ensure proper co-ordination to assist debtors whose assets were seized through judicial judgements.

Hussaini commented that this fund will be a new source for charitable activities and similar to the funds of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior. However, he clarified that the assistance to be provided to these debtors will be subject to the recommendations of the Enforcement Department at the Ministry of Justice.

He added that the House is co-ordinating its efforts with the Ministry of Interior to provide tickets to some people who are to be deported by the ministry in view of their dire financial situation.

Co-ordination between the House and the Zakat committees in the country will be enhanced through a computer network, Hussaini said.

Kuwaiti students abroad to receive more help

THE undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Musaed Al Haroon has said that the ministry had put a comprehensive plan to develop work at its offices abroad.

He told a local daily that scholarships to Saudi universities depended on the evaluation of the curricular programmes there and that the list of university subjects issued in 86 was liable to change after implementation.

He said that his tour of some Arab countries was part of a plan aimed at meeting with Kuwaiti students abroad, find out about the problems they faced and visit a number of higher education institutes and centres.

Budget

He highlighted the existing co-operation with the Saudi universities pointing out that a good number of Kuwaiti students studied at Saudi universities. Haroon added that the university had plans to open up new academies and new specialisations for which the government had allocated a decent budget, besides the intention to set up a university campus in Shadadiya in the late nineties.

A number of committees had been formed for organising the task of Arabising existing subjects taught in English, the official said and stressed the intention of the university to perform this feat though it is a time-consuming process.

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Facing idiot box

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir gets his chin dusted with powder on Sunday before an appearance on Israeli television in which he said that he would try to keep the broad-based government together. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ketziot breakout

Arabs stage great escape

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

March 12, (UPI): In the first successful breakout from the notorious Ketziot detention centre, five Palestinian prisoners escaped through a gate and fled into the Negev desert, the army said.

The prisoners succeeded in slipping over the border into Egypt while a third surrendered to UN peacekeeping forces on the border that turned him over to Egyptian authorities. The remaining two were captured by Israeli soldiers in the desert, an army spokeswoman said.

The prisoners escaped from Ketziot detention centre by lifting a gate and walking out, unnoticed by guards, Israeli radio said. The centre holds Palestinians under administrative detention, convicted of uprising and offences.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, security forces continued a second day of mass arrests in Beit Furik village. The army confined villagers to their homes and told them over loudspeakers that the operation would continue for several more days. Palestinian sources said 30 suspects were arrested yesterday and 120 on Saturday, including 10 wanted by the army.

In the Gaza Strip, the body of

29-year-old Salim Abdul Abu Mandir was found with stab wounds in his chest and neck. Last week, he was beaten by masked Palestinian men who accused him of collaborating with authorities, Palestinian sources said.

About 185 Palestinian suspected of collaborating have been killed since the start of the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

In Arab east Jerusalem, merchants observed a commercial strike to protest the shooting deaths of two Palestinians from the Shu'fat refugee camp Saturday. Yesterday police used tear gas to disperse demonstrators holding a mock funeral for the victims.

A Palestinian refugee shot by Israeli soldiers during a stonethrowing clash near the West Bank town of Jericho died today, hospital officials said.

Jamal Muhammad Khalifeh, 18, was the fifth Palestinian killed by security forces in the past week, Arab sources said.

The Israeli army has asked Egypt to return three Palestinians who crossed the border after escaping from Ketziot prison, military sources said today.

OIC body to discuss perils of Jewish influx

NICOSIA, March 12, (Reuters): The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has convened a special committee to discuss what it termed the danger of the exodus of 2 million Jews to Israel, the Islamic News Agency (INA) said today.

It said the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Committee of experts next Saturday would be attended by delegates from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Malaysia, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Morocco and Senegal.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, did not say where the gathering would take place. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, serves as the headquarters for the 46-member OIC.

The agency quoted Nabil Ma'arouf, OIC assistant secretary-general for Palestine and Jerusalem affairs, as saying "we must take the necessary step for the Islamic nation's participation in facing this danger."

The new Jewish influx to occupied Palestine is aimed at driving more Arabs from their land and replacing them with Zionist settlers, with future expansion at the expense of neighbouring countries to realise the dream of greater Israel.

The Arab world has been alarmed by the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union, with at about 5,000 a month arriving in Israel, fearing the emigrants will move into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and displace the Palestinian majority.

Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, has just concluded a visit to Saudi Arabia where the issue was a main topic of discussion.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat warned in an interview published in Kuwait today that the Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine is directed against the Arab nation as a whole and called for Arab support to the struggle of the Palestinians.

Arafat emphasised in his interview with a local daily that Israel is aiming for "a greater Israel" that stretches from the Euphrates to the Tiber.

Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait University Social Sciences magazine Dr Tahaqib today warned against the many international plots to end the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising, most recent of which is the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

yellow smog composed of dust and car exhaust as well as unremitting noise.

There have been major improvements over the past decade—the streets are cleaner, and traffic moves, albeit slowly, through a network of new arterial highways and the telephones do work. Waste water flooding is also less widespread.

But residents say air and noise pollution is getting worse.

Sherif recognises that much remains to be done, and he took on the job in April last year with an urban optimism and a clear sense of priorities.

He heads a staff of some 23,000,

divided into five city regions and 17 districts with an annual budget of some 800 million Egyptian pounds (\$300 million).

"In my personal view it is not as much a matter of money as resource allocation and personnel management," he said.

His first priority is to put solid roofs over the heads of the poor, along with power and running water.

Some 6,000 low-income families—roughly 30,000 people—join the queue for new homes in Cairo each year.

Sherif's strategy is to build new housing complexes in which the homes

are made available at actual cost, with repayments over 30 years at an interest of five per cent.

That means a low-income family will pay some 40 to 60 Egyptian pounds (\$15 to 20) a month to own a small flat.

Some of the new housing takes the form of satellite towns, deliberately designed to reduce inner city congestion by drawing people out of the city's Dickensian tenement areas.

By 1992, Sherif hopes to have completed 120,000 low-income flats in four major housing estates in Greater Cairo and providing homes for more than 620,000 people.

His second priority has been to get raw sewage off the streets by nearly doubling the capacity of the existing city sewage network to handle 3.8 million cubic metres of effluent, up from the current 2.1 million.

"Already I think we can say it (sewage spilling into public areas) is the exception rather than the rule," Sherif's third preoccupation has been the preservation of city districts containing Cairo's extensive examples of medieval Islamic architecture.

Since taking office, the governor has moved more than 1,000 families squatting in the ancient alleys of the historic Gamaliyya district into new homes.

Scientists were examining ways to reduce the level of the water table, because surface water was slowly seeping into the foundations and walls of Cairo's ancient heritage.

Sherif, committed to a greening of Cairo, has started to plant a million trees along city streets.

He identified three areas in Cairo, each between 10 and 30 hectares (25 and 75 acres), for gardens and parkland.

A major victory in the war against atmospheric pollution was won when the governor's office finally convinced three cement factories on the edge of the city to cap their 25 oven chimneys

with industrial filters by next year.

Sherif also plans the compulsory use of filters on all vehicles, along with city checkpoints to monitor progress.

Dust carried by wind from the nearby Mokattam Hills was another source of irritation to Cairene throats and chests.

One possible solution was to pipe water up the hills to irrigate shrubs and grass, but some scientists believed moisture would make the limestone hills crumble.

Sherif was waiting for a final opinion and in the meantime his staff was studying the use of climbing plants to hold the soil in place.

Radical Iran leader opposes hostages' release

NICOSIA, March 12, (AP): The leader of Iran's radical faction has said some of the foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon were spies and argued against releasing any of the "mercenary US hostages."

The comment came in an editorial signed by Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and published Saturday in Tehran's Persian-language Kayhan that was made available to the Associated Press today.

Also today, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported that the son of the

late Ayatollah Khomeini accused the United States of falsely trying to imply that ties with Iran are improving.

Mohtashemi, a former interior minister who heads the faction that opposes President Hashemi Rafsanjani's opening to the West, attacked those who suggest Iran should help get the hostages freed.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot and should not impose its policies and views on other Muslim nations," he wrote. "Furthermore, the freedom of the

hostages means breaking the chains of bloodthirsty wolves."

"The sentence for a spy in an Islamic country is death," Mohtashemi wrote.

The Westerners held in Lebanon are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is Terry Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

Mohtashemi said a recent call for the

hostages' release in the Rafsanjani-aligned Tehran Times and similar comments by Lebanese Shiite Muslim spiritual leader Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah "heightened the pressure on the Islamic revolution and the Muslims of Lebanon."

"Instead of putting pressure on the wronged Lebanese Muslims to release the mercenary US hostages, world public opinion should look for the centre of hostage-taking at the White House and

among Western and American intelligence services," he wrote.

Referring to the disappearance of four Iranians in north Lebanon in 1982, Mohtashemi claimed "the four Iranian diplomats were taken hostage in Beirut when it was under the security cover of the Nato multinational forces."

He was referring to the force that was sent into Beirut in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It was never deployed in north Lebanon.

Kabul coup to make way for polls: Tanai

'Not to attain political power'

ISLAMABAD, March 12, (UPI):

The leader of the failed coup against the pro-Soviet government of Afghan President Najibullah said yesterday he launched the revolt in order to hold free elections in Afghanistan.

"I want to make it clear we did not launch the uprising to attain political power," former defence minister Gen. Shahmawaz Tanai said in his first statement on why he mounted the takeover bid on Tuesday.

He said that, had the coup succeeded, he would have formed an interim administration after consultation with the Pakistan-based Muslim rebels, held elections after six months and transferred power to the elected government.

"The Afghan military wanted the Afghan nation to be given an opportunity to choose its own government," said the Pashto-language statement signed by Tanai.

The statement was issued by the Pakistan-based Hezbe-Islami rebel group head by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who

Najibullah has accused of backing the revolt led by Tanai.

Rebel military units bombed Kabul, including the presidential palace, and fought street battles with forces loyal to Najibullah at the start of the most serious threat to Najibullah's power since the withdrawal one year ago of Soviet troops backing his government.

But several of the coup leaders fled to Pakistan on Wednesday when it became clear the attempt had failed. Official Pakistani sources have said Tanai also arrived in Pakistan with his family aboard a military helicopter.

"After the Soviet withdrawal the aspirations of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan for ending the war, cessation of bloodshed, restoration of peace and formation of an Islamic government did not materialise," Tanai's statement said.

"Najibullah... made a hue and cry about peace and national reconciliation, but in reality he burned the whole nation in the flames of war which he waged for selfish ulterior motives."

Tanai called on the armed forces to "continue their resistance with the help of the mujahideen (rebels)."

He charged Najibullah had "imprisoned a large number of military officers who had made efforts to put a quick end to the war," apparently referring to 124 senior officers who were arrested for involvement in a December coup bid.

Western diplomats have said the opening of the trial of the officers on March 5 may have sparked the latest revolt.

Tanai was the leader of the rural Pashto-speaking "Khalq" faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, which predominates in the officer corps and paramilitary police. The Khalqis have been embroiled in disputes with Najibullah's Dari-speaking "Parcham" wing, which controls the party hierarchy.

Najibullah came to power in 1986, seven years after the Soviets invaded in December 1979 to support the first of a series of Marxist rulers against anti-communist Muslim rebels.

Cory for UN role in peace dialogue

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna):

Philippines President Corason Aquino has affirmed that her country is all for any settlement leading to peace in the Middle East and said that the UN can not be excluded from any solution to the Palestinian question.

In an interview with a local daily published in Kuwait today, President Aquino criticised Israel's military tactics to quell the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, urging all parties to lay down their weapons and resort to dialogue as a means of realising a solution to the problem.

Commenting on the recent changes in Eastern Europe, she agreed that such changes will produce some arrangements and alliances within East bloc countries, but ruled out that they will have similar effects of the Far East.

On Arab-Philippine relations, Aquino affirmed that these ties are "good, effective and normal" and noted that the Arab culture dominates parts of the Philippines, particularly in the city of Mindanao, with a Muslim majority.

In this respect, she called on Arab employers to better the working conditions of Filipinos in their respective countries.

Replying to a question regarding the situation in Mindanao, Aquino affirmed that efforts to realise peace in this southern island are continuing and said that her government had succeeded in granting autonomy rule to some parts of Mindanao.

On home issues, she affirmed that communists will remain as a future threat to her government, but pledged to foil any attempt to overthrow the regime.

In respect of the future of US military bases in Philippine territories, Aquino said that this issue will be raised in a popular referendum.

Carter begins tour amid peace hopes

CAIRO, March 12, (UPI): Former US president Jimmy Carter arrived in Cairo today at the start of a mid-east tour aimed at rekindling the stalled peace process in which he played a key role more than a decade ago. US diplomats and Egyptian officials said.

The diplomats said Carter, his wife Rosalynn and an aide, Kenneth Stein, were on a two-day fact-finding visit to Egypt as guests of the Egyptian government. Carter is then scheduled to head for Syria, Jordan and Israel on his nine-day tour.

"President Carter's visit is not sponsored by the US government, he is a guest of the Egyptian government," a US diplomatic source said. "Carter has always taken a keen interest in the Middle East peace process, and obviously would like to see it progress."

Carter, who mediated the 1978 Camp David accord that led to the subsequent Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty, is scheduled to meet later today with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali, as well as members of business, religious and academic communities.

Carter is interested in hearing views of Egyptian academics, economists and businessmen on current attempts to reform and decentralise the country's economy, which receives almost \$1 billion in US economic aid a year, Egyptian officials said.

On Tuesday, Carter is scheduled to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and will then fly to Damascus on Wednesday morning, the Foreign Ministry officials said.

Carter's Mid-east tour coincides with continuing US efforts to persuade a split Israeli cabinet to agree to preliminary talks between US Secretary of State James Baker III and his Egyptian and Israeli counterparts.

Washington and Cairo hope the talks will then lead to the first ever Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. Egypt is representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation in talks with Israel and the United States.

Egyptian officials said they did not expect Carter to directly mediate in the peace process, but any contribution he could make to push the peace process forward would be welcome.



Israeli peaceist Abie Nathan (right) meets with Egyptian Foreign Minister Gamal Abdel Maguid in a hotel in Tunis. Nathan met with PLO leader Yasser Arafat on March 9. (Reuter wirephoto)



All smiles

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (right) poses for a picture with King Hussein of Jordan and his wife Queen Noor at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Security zone not eternal'

Kurds to be resettled: Iraq

ARBIL, Iraq, March 12, (AP): A senior Iraqi official says the security zone in the Kurdish region bordering Iran and Turkey will be lifted as soon as a peace treaty with Iran is signed.

Baha' Ad-Din Ahmed, speaker of the Kurdish legislative council in Iraq, said the government has no intention to make the security zone on Iraq's northern and northeastern borders permanent.

"That was an exceptional measure we took during the war, and we will lift the security zone immediately after a peace accord is signed with Iran," Ahmed told reporters in this northern oil-rich provincial capital late Saturday.

The Iran-Iraq peace talks stalled right after the Aug 22,

1988 ceasefire in the Gulf, and the United Nations has been unable to make any progress toward a full peace accord.

He said the government will help the Kurdish population resettle in the towns and villages they wish to return to. But he did not say whether they will be allowed to settle in the security zone area.

Diplomats say Iraq has relocated some 500,000 Kurds in recent years from a 30-km (19-mile) deep strip along its border with Iran and Turkey, and resettled the population elsewhere in an effort to quell the decade-long Kurdish rebellion.

They also said about 1,000 villages were cleared in an effort to cut the supply and commun-

ications lines of the Kurdish guerrillas fighting for autonomy from Iraq.

Baghdad has denied charges that the Kurds were relocated in areas outside Kurdistan or that the changes were motivated by an effort to break up the tightly knit Kurdish clan system.

Ahmed, a Kurd who heads the 50 member legislative council of the Kurdish autonomy area, was speaking to reporters who were attending celebrations "on the 20th anniversary of the March 11, 1970 declaration recognizing Iraqi Kurdistan as an autonomous region."

"The autonomy rule has given Iraqi Kurds not only their rights as citizens but also their national rights," said Ahmed.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Saudi-Egypt committee meets: A joint Saudi Arabia-Egyptian committee began discussions in Riyadh today to expand bilateral ties, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

The agency said the Saudi team was headed by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, while the Egyptian delegation was led by Foreign Minister Esmal Abdel-Maguid, who is also a deputy prime minister.

It quoted Prince Saud as saying in an opening speech the three-day session "comes at a time international and regional relations are going through a series of extremely important developments." (Reuters)

Beirut sniping kills one: Rival Christian forces traded sniper fire in Christian east Beirut today, killing a Lebanese army soldier and wounding three persons, police said.

They said troops of renegade Gen. Michel Aoun and militia-men of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces also fired occasional rocket-propelled grenades into each other's positions in east Beirut's districts of Ashrafieh and Badaro. (AP)

Sudan peace talks: Sudan's military leader promises that mediation by Zaire will be coming days produce "positive developments" that could end the civil war in southern Sudan.

A hint of what Li Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir was speaking of came Monday with publication of an official statement signed by him and President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, whom Al Bashir visited on Sunday.

The statement said Mobutu called on both Al Bashir's government and southern rebels to lay down arms to implement a ceasefire, with negotiations to follow on ending hostilities. (AP)

Time for Sahara talks: United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was quoted on Sunday as saying the time was ripe for a settlement of the 15-year conflict in the western Sahara.

De Cuellar is due in the region later this month to try to negotiate an end to fighting in the former Spanish colony between independence-seeking Polisario guerrillas and Morocco. (Reuters)

Leftists plotted assassinations: Turkish police, battling a surge of political violence, said today they had captured a group of armed leftists believed to have planned to assassinate two retired generals.

The five leftists, two of them women, were captured after a clash in Hatay province near the Syrian border on Friday.

Diouf confers with King Hassan: President Abdou Diouf of Senegal held talks with King Hassan in the south Moroccan city of Agadir on Sunday, breaking his homeward journey after visiting Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

He said on arrival, they would discuss the next summit of the Organisation Islamic Conference (OIC) which is due to be held in Dakar. (Reuters)

Egyptian ports reopen: Egypt's Mediterranean port of Alexandria reopened Monday on Monday after being closed for 17 hours by strong winds and choppy seas, port officials said.

The gale trapped 15 ships inside and outside the harbour. The storm-hit oil terminal of the Suez Mediterranean Arab Petroleum Pipelines Company (SUMED) at Sidi Kreir, 32 km (20 miles) west of Alexandria, also reopened. (Reuters)

Ethiopian rebels claim: Ethiopian rebels, fighting the Ethiopian government for autonomy, said on Monday they sank two Ethiopian warships near the newly captured port of Massawa.

A spokesman for the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) said in a statement issued by its Damascus office a third warship was badly damaged in the attack on Saturday near Dahlak Island off Massawa. (Reuters)

Bus attack criticised: The alleged leader of a group accused of killing Israeli diplomats in Cairo has criticised last month's attack on an Israeli tourist bus in Egypt.

"Who wants to carry out attacks against Israeli tourists? Cairo is not the place and enough embarrassment for the Egyptian regime," Mahmoud Nour Al Deen told a Kuwaiti daily in an interview from his prison cell in Egypt.

Nour Al Deen is accused of being the head of "Egypt's Revolution," which claimed the killing of two Israeli diplomats in 1983 and 1976 and wounding an American envoy. (Reuters)

Egypt sentences Briton: A judge convicted a British man today of corrupting minors and sentenced him to a year in prison. The case was the second in less than a month with a Western man facing similar charges because of alleged sexual liaisons with young boys.

Judge Saad Zeinoun, chief of Cairo's Agouza misdemeanour court, pronounced the verdict and the sentence against Paul David Santon, 39.

Dr Sherif gives up surgeon's scalpel for the arduous task of improving Cairo's lot

CAIRO, March 12, (Reuters): Dr Mahmoud Sherif has given up the surgeon's scalpel for the formidable challenge of improving the health of Cairo's teeming millions.

"I miss operating, but trying to improve the health of Greater Cairo's 12 million residents seems a natural progression for treating an individual patient," said the cancer specialist who became governor of Cairo nearly a year ago.

It is not a task for the faint-hearted. While the city undoubtedly has its own very special charm, daily life for the poorer Cairene is often bedevilled by overcrowding, congested traffic, a

yellow smog composed of dust and car exhaust as well as unremitting noise.

There have been major improvements over the past decade—the streets are cleaner, and traffic moves, albeit slowly, through a network of new arterial highways and the telephones do work. Waste water flooding is also less widespread.

But residents say air and noise pollution is getting worse.

Sherif recognises that much remains to be done, and he took on the job in April last year with an urban optimism and a clear sense of priorities.

He heads a staff of some 23,000,

divided into five city regions and 17 districts with an annual budget of some 800 million Egyptian pounds (\$300 million).

"In my personal view it is not as much a matter of money as resource allocation and personnel management," he said.

His first priority is to put solid roofs over the heads of the poor, along with power and running water.

Some 6,000 low-income families—roughly 30,000 people—join the queue for new homes in Cairo each year.

Sherif's strategy is to build new housing complexes in which the homes

are made available at actual cost, with repayments over 30 years at an interest of five per cent.

That means a low-income family will pay some 40 to 60 Egyptian pounds (\$15 to 20) a month to own a small flat.

Some of the new housing takes the form of satellite towns, deliberately designed to reduce inner city congestion by drawing people out of the city's Dickensian tenement areas.

By 1992, Sherif hopes to have completed 120,000 low-income flats in four major housing estates in Greater Cairo and providing homes for more than 620,000 people.

His second priority has been to get raw sewage off the streets by nearly doubling the capacity of the existing city sewage network to handle 3.8 million cubic metres of effluent, up from the current 2.1 million.

"Already I think we can say it (sewage spilling into public areas) is the exception rather than the rule," Sherif's third preoccupation has been the preservation of city districts containing Cairo's extensive examples of medieval Islamic architecture.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

POLITICS are almost as exciting as war, and quite as dangerous. In war you can only be killed once, but in politics many times — Winston Churchill.

But can't stop it

Reunification: Allies have say

LONDON (Reuters): The World War II allies — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — in theory have the final say on German reunification, but few in East or West believe they could stop it now even if they wanted to.

The four powers will carry out a 45-year-old obligation when they start meetings next week with East and West Germany to settle the foreign aspects of reuniting a country that is at present divided between two opposing military alliances.

Western diplomats said they expected the military status of the new Germany to be the most complex problem at the so-called "Two-Plus-Four" talks, overshadowing the issue of the Polish-German border which has caused ructions in Bonn in recent days.

The role of the four powers in Germany stems from series of agreements and statements they made when they defeated and occupied the Third Reich at the end of World War II.

For instance on June 5, 1945 — four weeks after Germany's capitulation — they said that they would "hereafter determine the boundaries of Germany or any part thereof and the status of Germany or of any area at present being part of Germany."

The Two-Plus-Four arrangement was set up at a meeting of Nato and Warsaw Pact foreign ministers in Ottawa last month.

It will consider proposals on unification from the two Germanys, which replaced the former Western and Soviet occupation zones in 1949, and try to agree on external angles — that is, Germany's place in the future of European structure.

Despite reservations expressed until recently by the Soviet Union, Britain and France about the idea of unification itself, at least in the short term, diplomats said the issue now was how and not whether the two Germanys would merge.

"The outcome in its broadest terms is no longer in doubt, and it's a question of how you get to that point," a US official said. "It's a task that gets bigger the more you look at it."

Difficult

"It's my personal view that it's difficult to stand in the way (of unification)," a Soviet diplomat commented.

Western analysts said the turning point was a decision last autumn by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to allow a popular upheaval to topple communist rule in East Germany.

"German unification was basically in Soviet hands," said Mark Fielder of Britain's Royal United States Service Institute. "Once Gorbachev decided to drop (former East German leader Erich) Honecker, that was it."

Senior officials from the Two-Plus-Four group will hold their first meeting next week, just before East German elections scheduled for March 18, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in Brussels on Monday.

This will be preceded by a meeting on Friday of East and West German officials, the East German Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday.

The six-power talks are expected eventually to reach foreign minister level, and whatever agreement is reached will be put to a summit of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in the autumn, diplomats said.

But they added it was still unclear who would ultimately sanction German reunification, and in what form.

One controversial issue is the role of other powers in the six-party negotiations, especially Poland, whose western frontiers have been contested by some West Germans expelled from former German territories now part of Poland.

Bonn opposes giving Warsaw a seat at the negotiations, but diplomats from other countries said the Poles would have to be consulted somehow.

Question

The Two-Plus-Four group was "not an exclusive forum in which the question will be resolved," a British official said.

On the Western side too, Nato allies like Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands have complained that they are being left out. Their concerns are likely to be addressed at a Nato foreign ministers meeting tentatively scheduled for early April.

Western diplomats said they did not expect the Polish border issue to be a long-term problem.

They said West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl did not dispute the present border along the Oder and Neisse rivers despite his insistence that only a united Germany could settle frontiers, a line that has been widely criticised within West Germany itself.

A compromise appeared in sight on Tuesday when the coalition government in Bonn agreed that Parliament would be asked to approve a motion calling for a treaty between a unified Germany and Poland formally recognising the border.

Diplomats said the thorniest problem was certain to be the military allegiance of the country and the future of the 400,000 foreign Nato troops in West Germany and the 350,000 Soviet troops in East Germany.

"The key element is what to do about security forces, which is not something the Germanys will want to tackle by themselves," one diplomat said.

Nato wants a united Germany to belong to the Western alliance, with a guarantee that no Nato troops would be stationed in former East German territory. The Soviet Union favours German neutrality.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1552 — France's King Henry II invades Lorraine; Turks invade Hungary.

1567 — Margaret of Parma, regent of the Netherlands, uses German mercenaries to annihilate 2,000 Calvinists.

1797 — Holy Roman Empire agrees to convention of Milan whereby French troops are to leave northern Italy.

1714 — Battle of Storkyro leads to Russian domination of Finland.

1821 — Victor Emmanuel of Piedmont abdicates and proclaims his brother, Charles Felix, as successor.

1881 — Russia's Tsar Alexander II is assassinated, is succeeded by Alexander III.

1900 — British forces under Frederick Roberts capture Bloemfontein, South Africa.

1938 — Austria is declared part of German Reich.

1942 — British bombers stage saturation raid on Germany city of Cologne in World War II.

1957 — Anglo-Jordan treaty of 1948 expires.

1967 — Peasant rioting is reported in China.

1971 — Quebec separatist Paul Rose is given life sentence in Montreal, Canada, for his part in kidnapping and murder of Quebec labour minister Pierre Laporte.

1978 — South Moluccan gunmen seize more than 70 hostages in government building in Essen, the Netherlands, and demand release of comrades in Dutch jails.

1989 — Christian army units and Syrian-backed Muslim militiamen shatter ceasefire in clash against Beirut's dividing Green Line.

Lithuania breaks from fold

Soviet republic declares independence

MOSCOW (Reuters): The Lithuanian Parliament's reaffirmation on Sunday of the republic's pre-war independence came after a series of steps towards secession. The most important were:

Oct 1988 — Founding congress of Sajudis Movement ends with call for autonomy within the Soviet Union, rather than full independence, despite series of speeches by radical delegates calling for secession.

Jan 25, 1989 — Parliament declares Lithuanian the language of government and business and names Feb 16 official holiday to mark anniversary of declaration of independent Lithuanian state in 1918.

Feb 16 — Several hundred thousand people gather in capital, Vilnius, and former capital Kaunas, to celebrate independence day for first time since republic incorporated into Soviet Union in 1940.

March — Sajudis candidates sweep board in elections to the new Soviet legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, beating many candidates backed by the Communist Party apparatus.

May 18 — Lithuanian Parliament votes itself right to veto Soviet laws on its territory and makes "declaration of state sovereignty" saying republic was "forcibly and illegally annexed to the Soviet Union in 1940."

Aug 26 — Soviet Communist Party Central Committee releases headline warning that "nationalist hysteria" in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia threatens to tear Soviet Union apart.

Aug 22 — Commission of Lithuanian Parliament denounces Red Army occupation of republic in 1940 and says subsequent vote by Parliament to join Soviet Union invalid. Report adopted by Parliament on Sept 23.

Aug 23 — More than million people join human chain through Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to mark 50th anniversary of Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact, whose secret protocols put Lithuania and the other two republics into Soviet sphere of influence.

Nov 24 — Lithuanian Parliament sets up commission on restoring republic's independence.

Dec 7 — Lithuanian Parliament votes 243 to one to legalise multi-party system, despite Moscow's disapproval. First two parties registered on Dec 28.

Dec 20 — Majority of communists agree to set up new Lithuanian Communist Party, independent of Soviet Party, in first such challenge to monolithic unity of Communist Party since 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Jan 1990 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visits Lithuania and announces for first time that Soviet Parliament to consider new law setting out terms for secession. Dismissed by Sajudis leaders as vague promise designed to save time.

Feb 19 — Brazdukas calls for negotiations with Moscow to turn Lithuania into independent, neutral state.

Feb 24 — Sajudis candidates, fighting on pro-independence platform, win majority of seats in elections to Lithuanian Parliament.

March 8 — Sajudis' ruling Seimas, or Council, unanimously votes to push for reaffirmation of 1910 declaration of independence at weekend parliamentary session.

March 11 — Parliament votes to restore independence by 1990, with 100% support.

Key events in Lithuania since World War I till 1988:

1918 — The German army withdraws from Lithuania, which it had occupied in 1914-15. Lithuanians declare independence in federation with Moscow.

Summer 1919 — The state is overthrown by Polish, German and nationalist Lithuanian forces, and a democratic republic is established.

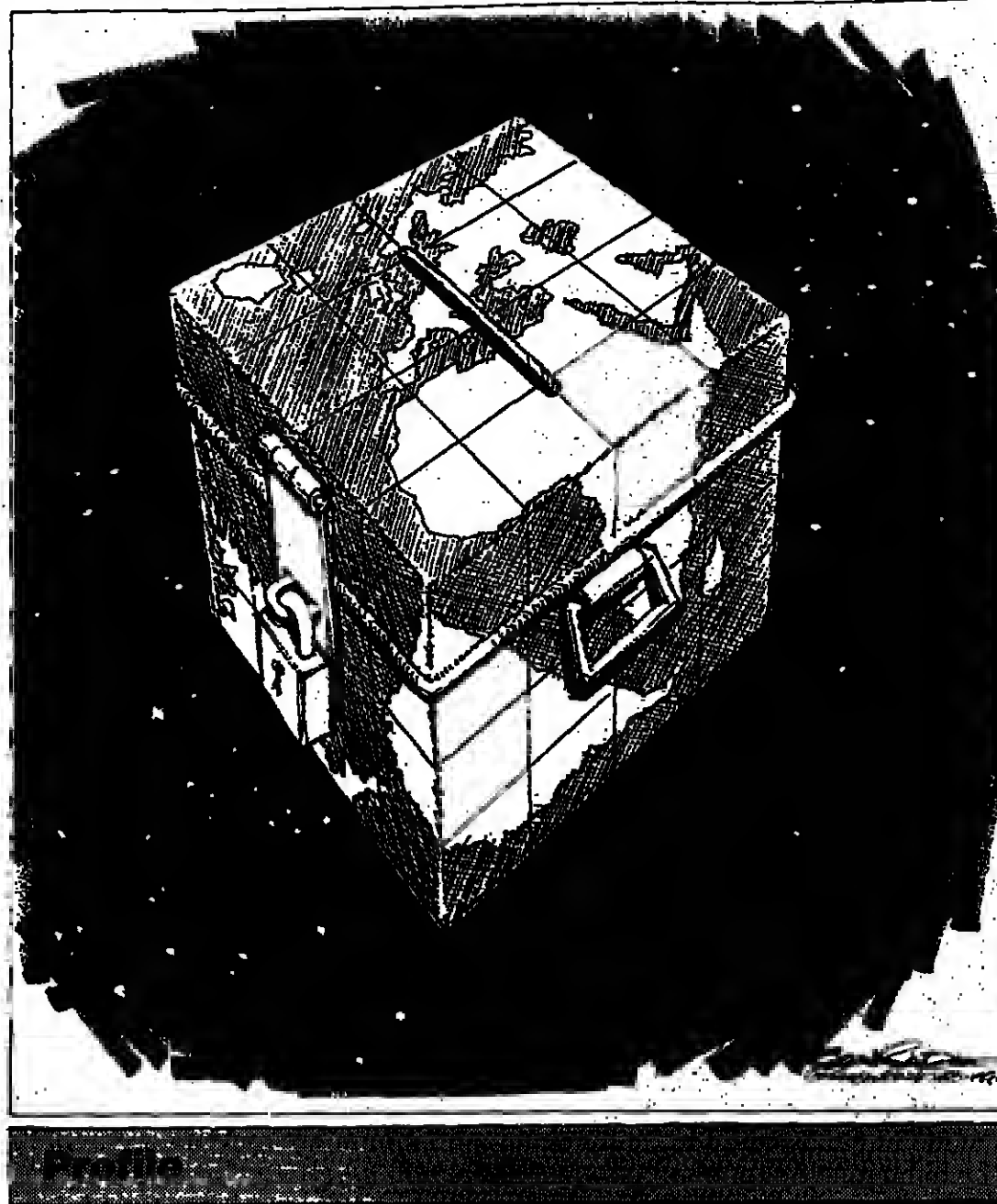
Aug 23, 1939 — The Soviet Union signs a non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany, and a little more than a week later Hitler attacks Poland to start World War II. The protocol — signed by Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov and German envoy Joachim von Ribbentrop — places the independent countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and parts of eastern Poland in the Soviet sphere of influence.

June, 1940 — Soviet Union annexes Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

July 21, 1940 — A newly elected assembly controlled by communists proclaims establishment of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Aug 3, 1940 — Lithuania formally is incorporated into the Soviet Union. Several Western governments, including the United States and France, refuse to acknowledge the incorporation and continue to recognise Lithuanian diplomats from the independent period.

June 22, 1941 — Soviet-German co-operation ends with German invasion of Soviet Union. Ger-



MOSCOW (Reuters): These are the key facts about Lithuania:

Population: About 3.64 million. A 1979 population breakdown, the latest available, shows 80 per cent are Lithuanian, 8.6 per cent Russian and 7.7 per cent Polish. But continued immigration, largely by Russian industrial workers, has swelled the Russian-speaking population since then.

Area: 25,000 square miles (65,000 sq km). Lithuania is bounded by Latvia to the north, Byelorussia to the east and south, and Poland, the Russian republic and the Baltic Sea to the west.

Capital: Vilnius (population about 579,000).

Language: The Lithuanian language, like that spoken in the neighbouring Baltic Republic of Latvia, is part of the Indo-European family. It is distinct from Russian and provides the native population with a powerful source of national identity and pride.

Religion: Lithuania has some 2.5 million Roman Catholics and the quest for political autonomy has gone hand in hand with demands for religious freedom. In October 1988 the authorities permitted a mass in Vilnius cathedral, the first religious service sanctioned in Lithuania since 1950. In March 1989 the Vatican appointed resident bishops in the republic's three main cities, as almost total reinstatement of the church after decades of suppression.

many occupies Lithuania from 1941-44.

1945 — Soviet Union gains back Baltic territory in postwar peace conferences after defeat of Hitler.

April 1978 — The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Legislature, along with 14 other republic rubber-

Economy: Chief industries, all built up since 1940, include shipbuilding, chemicals, paper, electronics and knit-wear. Much of the industrial workforce is Russian, a source of tension with the more agricultural native population.

Agriculture, however, remains important. Grain, potatoes, sugarbeet, meat and milk are leading products.

Lithuania is poor in minerals and oil products, but famous for its amber.

History: With the German withdrawal in 1918, local Soviets, or regional councils, were elected in all towns and Lithuania was proclaimed a Soviet republic.

Crystalise

To 1919, Lithuanian nationalist forces combined with Polish and German troops to overthrow the Soviet government and establish a democratic Lithuania. Seven years later, a fascist coup brought down the republic.

A secret pact with Nazi Germany placed most of Lithuania in the Soviet sphere and in August 1940 the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic was admitted into the Soviet Union.

The United States does not recognise the incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union and several other Western governments — including Australia and Britain — have not accorded it full legal status.

Opposition to the 1939 Nazi-

Soviet deal that cost the Baltic republics their independence — an attempt by dictator Josef Stalin to buy time before a German onslaught — has helped crystallise national movements throughout the region.

More than one million Balts joined hands in August 1989, the 50th anniversary of the pact, in protest against what they say was their forcible incorporation into the Soviet Union.

Since Mikhail Gorbachev took over as Soviet leader in 1985, the republic's government allowed the voicing of nationalist feelings and the local Communist Party grew closer to the thriving Sajudis secessionist movement.

Sajudis took the majority of Lithuania's seats in elections to the Moscow Parliament in March 1989. In December that year the Lithuanian government voted to legalise a multi-party system and the local party decided to break with Moscow and form an independent party.

Gorbachev condemned the move, the first challenge to the monolithic unity of the Soviet Communist Party since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. But the Soviet Party's Central Committee postponed a decision on recognition of the new party until after Gorbachev had visited the republic.

Russian and Polish minorities in Lithuania complained that autonomy would lead to discrimination against them.

stamp assemblies, adopt new Republican constitutions that formally recognise right of the constituent republic to secede.

March 11, 1985 — Mikhail Gorbachev takes power.

Spectacular harvests in Africa

TIMBUKTU, Mali (UPI): Timbuktu was lucky last year. It rained, the locusts stayed away, and with help from the world community and a lot of hard work, farmers produced one of the best harvests in five decades.

Farmers in nearly all the countries hugging the southern Sahara desert produced bumper crops, filling granaries and children's bellies from Senegal east to Niger.

But while Africans bask in their agricultural success, the excellent years in 1988 and 1989 also illuminate the profound, long-term problems facing these poor nations struggling to feed themselves.

The problem ranges from a birthrate that always outpaces production to a marketplace that stacks the deck against even the most hardworking African farmer.

Experts point out that even during the record-breaking harvest of 1988, sub-Saharan Africa imported nearly 9 million tons of cereal.

"Nonetheless, the 500,000-ton grain surplus is spectacular news," said US Ambassador Robert Fringale. "Now everyone is wondering how to export what they have grown."

Abdullah Al Kalifa, standing hip-deep in a field of emerald green wheat rippling in the desert wind near Timbuktu, doesn't worry about exporting his surplus to other countries. He'd just like to be able to sell it 50 kilometres (30 miles) away in Timbuktu.

"Five years ago there was no rain, nothing to eat. Foreigners gave us everything. These last two years the harvest were good, we have hope and two warehouses are full," said Al Kalifa, 36, already an old man in a nation where the average life expectancy is 49.

"We have more than we can eat, more than we can store and we can't sell the rest," he said. "How can we get our grain to town if there are no roads? How can we compete with grain from other countries? How can we earn enough money to buy food when there is another drought?"

The last drought has left its visible mark on the bodies of the children. Two-year-olds are solid and rounded, while their older sisters and brothers born during the drought of 1984-85 are spindly and are apt to suffer from chronic malnutrition.

"If you are malnourished, a few good meals will make you feel better, but you are still malnourished," said Leo Devos, director of Unicef in Mali. "The whole country is like these children. It will take more than a couple of good harvests to put the country back on its feet."

"Still, it's nice to see the green. It is the colour of hope."

Mali was in desperate straits when Unicef arrived five years ago to distribute emergency food. The government was in chaos, people were starving and huge numbers of refugees were arriving everyday in urban centres from the countryside where everything — from livestock to bowls — was lost.

The crisis ended, but enormous need remained and Unicef stayed on to help. So did many others.

The United States, which spends about \$30 million in Mali each year, now helps entrepreneurs and small farmers in the fertile regions. West Germany built warehouses for storing provisions against future drought and an important national highway across Mali.

France, Italy and other countries fight desertification, dig wells, form co-operatives or assist in dozens of other ways.

Unicef devoted its energy and resources to helping Timbuktu, the once mysterious oasis that still evokes romance and adventure.

Centuries ago, Timbuktu was the crossroad of caravans, a vital centre of learning and a garden in the desert where the river ran deep and trees hung heavy with fruit.

Now the advancing desert has tied a noose of dunes around Timbuktu and many donors have written the city off as a lost cause.

With funds from Italian labour unions, Unicef

installed pumps to make use of riverwater and dug wells to tap groundwater for irrigation.

"We wanted to set an example, to show what could be done in even the most precarious situation," De Vos said, surveying one result of the five-year project: the field in the middle of the desert where Al Kalifa and his neighbours brought in a 15-ton grain surplus — little of which can be sold.

The problem used to be price controls, instituted by the Malian government to keep food costs down and urban voters happy. But farmers became discouraged by the low return on their labour. The government abolished price controls at the urging of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

But the international donors also demanded that Mali eliminate protectionist measures and subsidies to farmers. No open markets, they said, no aid.

"We have a long-term commitment to food aid, in return for which we ask that the entire cereal market be freed," said Dennis Brennan, director of the US Agency for International Development in Bamako.

But with the market wide open, Thai and US rice sells for less in the Timbuktu bazaar than grain grown down the road.

"The little guy works like crazy to grow something, pulling grain from soil that is poor, in primitive conditions and in a climate that is never favourable, even when there is no drought," said Giovanni Fiore, the director of Unicef's Timbuktu project and a veteran Africa hand.

Cheapest

Then, when the farmer produces a surplus to sell there are no buyers — no one in rural villages has any cash and consumers in Timbuktu buy whatever is cheapest.

"It comes from Europe or the United States where farmers receive subsidies," Fiore said. "How can a Malian compete? He has no subsidy, all he has is taxes and the high cost of the pump, gasoline, oil, fertilizer, all of which has to be imported at double, triple, 10 times the cost to an American."

Letters to the editor

Viva Hyderabad!

SIR: The present year is of great importance for every person hailing from the Indian city of Hyderabad as during the current year the city of Hyderabad has been passing through 400th spring of its establishment. Therefore through the columns of "your esteemed daily let me take this opportunity to congratulate all the expatriates from Hyderabad all around the world in general and the Hyderabad community residing in Kuwait in particular.

I hope the forthcoming event to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Hyderabad will be remembered for a long time. Let's all co-operate and get united to put our efforts in making this event a great success.

Let's all pray to almighty Allah for the betterment and progress of our native place and our talking people. "Long Live Hyderabad"

Khalish Hyderabad
Safat

Libya gives, never takes

TRIPOLI (Reuters): Like a genie, Muammar Khaddafi's Libyan revolution, appearing from an oil well instead of a bottle, seemed only to give, never to take.

Now the magic can go no further, say Khaddafi and his aides.

The clash between popular expectations and economic reality set off extraordinarily candid debates this month at the annual meeting of the General People's Congress, Libya's Parliament, which ended on Saturday.

The government met a barrage of criticism that it has not built enough roads, schools or hospitals.

But the ministers replied: "We are not wizards. We do not have a magic wand. It's just not possible to go on like this."

Under the system elaborated by Khaddafi, decisions of the Basic People's Congresses are supposed to be passed up through branches and municipalities to the General People's Congress, where members have no right to express their own opinions.

In practice, over the past week, members repeatedly broke the rule and others tried to reprimand them.

"A vicious circle," a revolution without revolutionaries. "The state gives, the individual gets," are some of the descriptions applied to Khaddafi's 13-year experiment with direct democracy financed by oil revenues.

Siding with efforts to check the demands from the grassroots, one congress member said: "Everyone wants free health, free education, free everything, even free food. But what we discuss these demands, we must discuss how to finance them."

A foreign publisher invited to the congress said: "If you ask people what they want and if all together, you tend to end up with what which is not always very coherent."

Congress members are unanimous that the principles of the system are sound — that the people, meeting in local assemblies called Basic People's Congresses, should dictate government policy and monitor its progress.

"Where else in the world does the individual have such an impact? Where else do people have such 'freedom'?" asked one congresswoman.

Local assemblies, set up when enormous oil exports made balanced budgets unnecessary, have grown accustomed to demanding money from the government while offering nothing in return.

Ministers did not challenge the principles of the system but complained of irresponsibility and lack of realism. Khaddafi himself declared: "It is inconceivable that (the assemblies) should show such ignorance."

Cabinet Secretary (Prime Minister) Omar Muntaser limited at a need to reassess the balance between local assemblies, the supreme authority in Libya, and those expected to carry out their orders.

"It may be necessary to amend the method of public policy so as to reconcile the exercise of authority through legislation and its implementation in reality," his annual report reported.

Revolutionary militants in the Congress objected to some of the minister's comments, calling them provocative.

"This could be understood as an insult to the Basic People's Congresses, the sole authority. We may forgive this but we will not forget it, said one.

Another said: "The ministers blame the municipalities, the municipalities say they will study the proposals, the branches say they have no powers. In the era of the masses we are turning in a vicious circle."

In a heated debate on the work of the secretariat (ministry) of mass mobilisation and revolutionary guidance, several ministers or members lamented a lack of revolutionary commitment.

"We have a revolution without revolutionaries. There aren't any people capable of convincing, guiding, instructing or mobilising," said Information Secretary Rajah Abu Dabbous.

"The Commonwealth had responded with unanimity and joy to the wish of the democratically elected government of Namibia to join the Commonwealth on independent membership. It will bring further strength to the Commonwealth both for the resolution of long-standing problems throughout southern Africa."

Commonwealth secretary-general

"I shall try to convince Parliament members and their parties not to help Labour in achieving this goal, but to vote against them if they try to bring down the government. Shamir on trying to block Labour from forming a narrow government."

"Fortunately there exists a Soviet Union, keeping a coherent foreign policy striving for peace. The Soviet Union has not fallen into counterrevolutionary hands. Let's hope it will not fall."

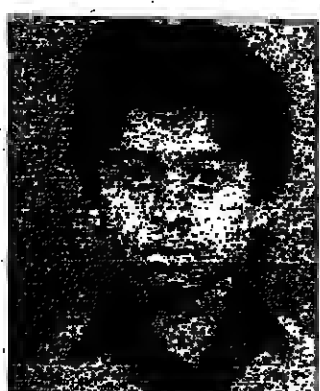
"The Soviet Union has not disintegrated, let's hope it will not frontation in the Soviet Union, let's hope there will be none, but dangers do exist and are very real," Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Quote me

Happy birthday



Anila Albert turned 9 on March 11.



Sabih Assain turned 7 on March 10.



Manu Prem turned 5 on March 7.



Nafeesa Subramaniam turned 10 on March 10.



Elton D Souza turned 6 on March 11.



Amanda Pereira turned 2 on March 6.



Rina D'souza turned 7 on March 9.



Muhammed Abdel Ghani turned 6 on March 11.



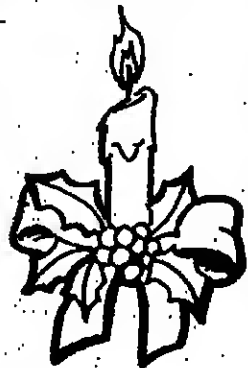
Faiza Najam turned 9 on March 6.



Maria Vaz turned 8 on March 12.



Jitha John turns 5 on March 14.



Just for laughs!

My uncle said, 'Did you know the rubber man is doing ten O-levels?'
I said, 'He'll have to stretch himself.'

My uncle said, 'I had this bull once, and he joined the navy. He's an admiral now.'

I said, 'Admiral Bull.'

My uncle said, 'I've got another bull who swallowed a bomb.'

I said, 'I see what you mean, a-bom-in-a-bull.'

My uncle said, 'I've got this bull called Terry and he smells.'

I said, 'He must be Terry-hull.'

My uncle said, 'I've got this other bull who tells me jokes.'

'Ah yes!' I said. 'Laugh-a-bull.'

'And then,' he said, 'there's this other bull who's into modern pop music.'

I said, 'You don't mean....'

He said, 'Yes, synthesiz-a-bull.'

My uncle said, 'The one you've got to watch out for is this clever bull who eats other bulls.'

I said, 'That must be Canny-bull.'

My uncle said, 'Right. And did you know I also had a bull that led 3,000 elephants over the Alps and then conquered Italy?'

I said, 'You can't mean....'

He said, 'Yes, Hanni-bull.'

'My uncle tried to teach a pig to drive a car, but he didn't pass his test.'

'Why not?'

'He was a road hog.'

Children join the Dentist Week ceremony



Some children recently joined in the variety programme held for the opening of the Dentist Week. The pictures show young girls dancing.

Variety

It was the most bizarre marriage ever when Reg and Elsie Hiller walked down the aisle. For 40 years they had lived together as man and wife without even telling their six children and many grandchildren they were never married.....

In love for 40 years

Wedding bells ring four decades later

To everyone who knew them, Reg and Elsie Hiller were the perfect married couple.

But for almost 40 years they had shared a very special secret. Although they shared five children and eleven grandchildren, the crafty couple had never married.

Red-faced Elsie blurted out the truth as her eldest daughter Carol was planning a big Ruby wedding anniversary.

She admitted that she had married another man during World War Two, but he had deserted her.

So when she met Reg in 1948, they couldn't get married without tracing Elsie's husband for a divorce.

Reg and Elsie were so in love they decided that married or not, they had to be together. They set up home and Elsie changed her name to Hiller by deed poll.

And now 40 years later Reg and Elsie have finally got their wish... and tied the knot.

A divorce was arranged for Elsie from her long-vanished husband, and proud Reg slipped the ring on her finger in their hometown of Newbury in Berkshire.

The whole family gathered to watch the happy couple finally make it legal at their local registry office.

Elsie recalls: 'Everyone was very shocked at first and thought we were joking, but as it sunk in all they thought it was very funny.'

'The wedding was absolutely wonderful. The nicest thing was finally being able to marry Reg after all these years, but what made it extra special was having all the children and grandchildren there to watch. That is something you don't see every day.'

Experience

To Reg the 40 year late wedding came as great experience. He had almost given up hope of walking down the aisle.

'We really shocked the whole town, but we didn't mind because it was so nice to be getting married at last,' Reg says.

'We had always wanted to, but we never thought we would

be able to do it.'

'The wedding was great and I had a real feeling of joy putting the ring on Elsie's finger.'

'It didn't matter we had lived together for all these years, because I still loved Elsie just as much as the day I met her, and she looked just lovely.'

'The only thing that I was worried about, was whether she would turn up or not!'

As far as Elsie was concerned it was the most important day of her life. And she was determined her big day would go without a hitch.

'We arranged the whole wedding properly. I went to Carol's house to get ready and we went to the registry office in separate cars. Reg was waiting for me there and I was terribly excited. During the ceremony there were a few tears but only because it was so moving. I kept seeing all my years with Reg flashed past and it was a wonderful feeling to be finally marrying the man I have always loved.'

After the wedding the whole family gathered at a special reception to celebrate Reg and Elsie's marriage.

Elsie adds: 'We hired a hall and a disco and everybody had a fantastic time. All the family were dancing and singing, but Reg and I are getting on a bit so we went home to bed.'

'We didn't have a honeymoon, we just went back to our little house for our wedding night. We didn't feel any different, being married, but we were very happy about it and we knew the rest of the family were as well.'

Attention

'The whole town heard about it because they put our names on a list outside the registry office. We received loads of cards and presents and no-one could believe it. They all kept saying "No-one is more married than you two." It was really very funny and it was great to be the centre of attention.'

But Elsie will never forget the day she finally told her daughter Carol the truth about her unwedded bliss.

She recalls: 'For years Carol

was always asking questions and wanted to hear about our wedding. I had to keep making excuses, but she found out. She wanted to know why we didn't have any wedding photographs, so I told her we lost them.'

'Every year the children arranged a lovely anniversary for us and each year it got harder and harder to tell them we weren't married. But when we found out that Carol was planning a fantastic ruby wedding anniversary, we knew it was time to come clean.'

'Reg and I took her for a drink and after a few too many, Reg finally plucked up the courage to tell her. It was so funny.'

Reg will never forget that awful moment. For nearly 40 years he had been the perfect married man, yet now he was admitting he and Elsie had never been married. 'I wasn't really sure what to say, so I told her that mum was married but I wasn't. She looked at us for a minute and burst out laughing. Next thing we knew she was on the phone telling everyone. All of a sudden the whole town knew.'

'Carol was really excited and within days she had been to the solicitors and arranged a divorce for Elsie and before we knew it the wedding was arranged.'

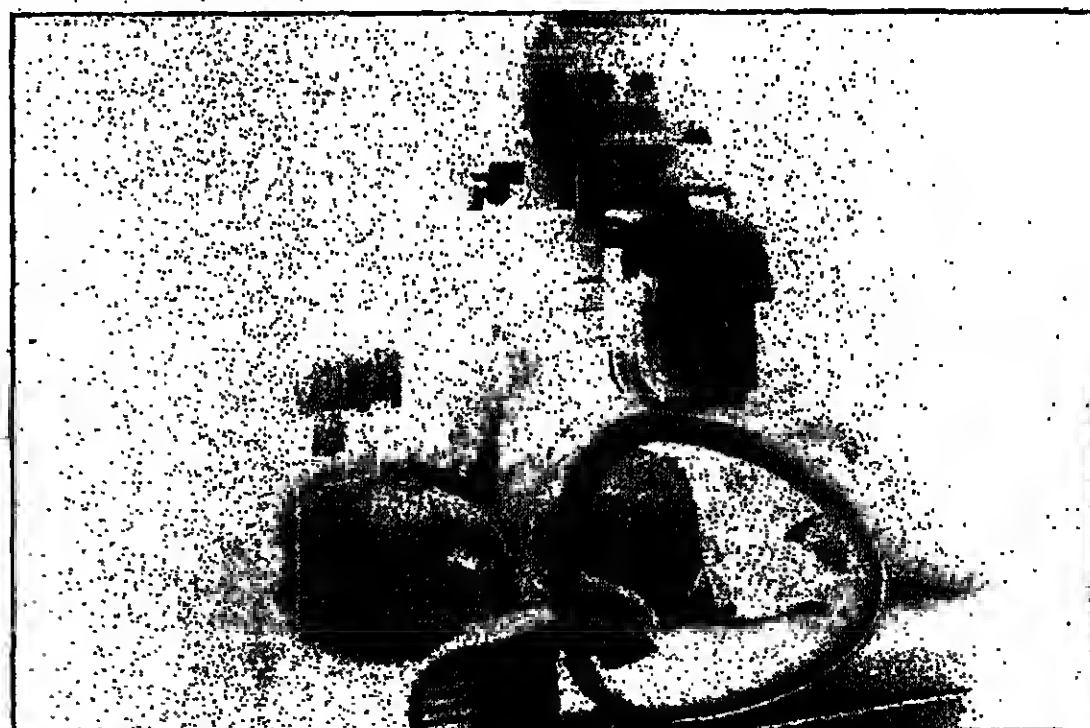
But thinking back to when they first met, Reg and Elsie have no regrets about living in sin for so many years.

Elsie recalls: 'When I met Reg way back in 1948, I knew I wanted to marry him so I started to try and trace my husband. I was told it would cost at least £500 and I couldn't possibly afford it.'

'I discussed it with Reg and we decided that we wanted to be together regardless of whether we were married.'

'We moved in together and I changed my name by deed poll. Everyone we ever met just assumed we were married and we never told them any different.'

As the years passed by it got more and more difficult to tell anyone we weren't married. In those days it was considered disgusting to live together without being married and we didn't want the children to be called names.'



Babylog respiratory system

The new babylog 8000 respiratory system and the Aquamod respiratory gas moistener from the Drägerwerk AG in Lübeck improve the chances of survival of premature babies. The new unit helps infants breathe as was developed in the Federal Republic of Germany. A new intensive therapy enhances their chances to survive. For the first time ever, it is now possible to adjust the machine with the accuracy required by the doctors.

Hijab controversy

British compromise sets precedent

By Alexander Macleod

LONDON (CSM): For Doris Delides, headmistress of Altrincham Grammar School near Manchester, the ban on wearing flowing head scarves during classes was common-sensical.

But for Fatima and Aisha Alvi, two of her students, it was a matter of religious faith. It has taken two years, but the dispute has been settled in favour of the Pakistani sisters.

British race-relations specialists expect school with female Muslim students and male teachers to regard the outcome as an important guideline for the future. Many schools in Britain have significant numbers of female Asian students, but this is the first time a dispute about Muslim apparel attracted nationwide interest.

In a similar case in France, it took the Council of State three weeks' deliberation to rule last November that the hijab by female Muslim students did not violate the constitutional separation of church and state.

The British dispute was settled more simply — by the Altrincham board of governors' decision that in enforcing the ban, they were unnecessarily stirring up religious tension.

Two years ago the Altrincham governors decided that head scarves were a hazard when worn in the school labs or gym. They ordered a hijab ban in all classes.

Rumbles of protest came from families of the school's 20 female Muslim students. Letters were exchanged between parents and teachers, but the ban stayed. Then last Dec 21, the two sisters arrived at the school wearing traditional white head scarves. They were told to remove them — or to return home. They went home.

That happened each day for a month. Meanwhile, Fatima Alvi, the elder sister, began giving press interviews, explaining to one reporter: 'We want to show our strength of religious feeling.' Fatima said three men taught at Altrincham, and that Islam teaches that women should cover their hair in the presence of men.

When Altrincham's 16 governors met on Jan 23, they took two hours to decide. Afterward Cahairman Gilbert Thompson said: 'I know we are setting a precedent, but we have to take account of changes in our society.'

The result is a compromise. Female students will be allowed to wear scarves in the school's colour — dark blue — not the traditional white. But the ban stands for labs and the gym.

Muslim leaders regard the decision as important. Azmat Choudry, of the Manchester Muslim Association Trust, says: 'The Quran is clear on such matters. The girls were asking for respect for what they believe. That respect has been accorded them.'

Sahib Mustaqim Bleher, general secretary of the Islamic Party of Great Britain, says he is happy the matter was settled by 'accommodation and adaptability' on both sides.

When Fatima and Aisha heard the news, Fatima said: 'I'm looking forward to going to school without being thrown out.'

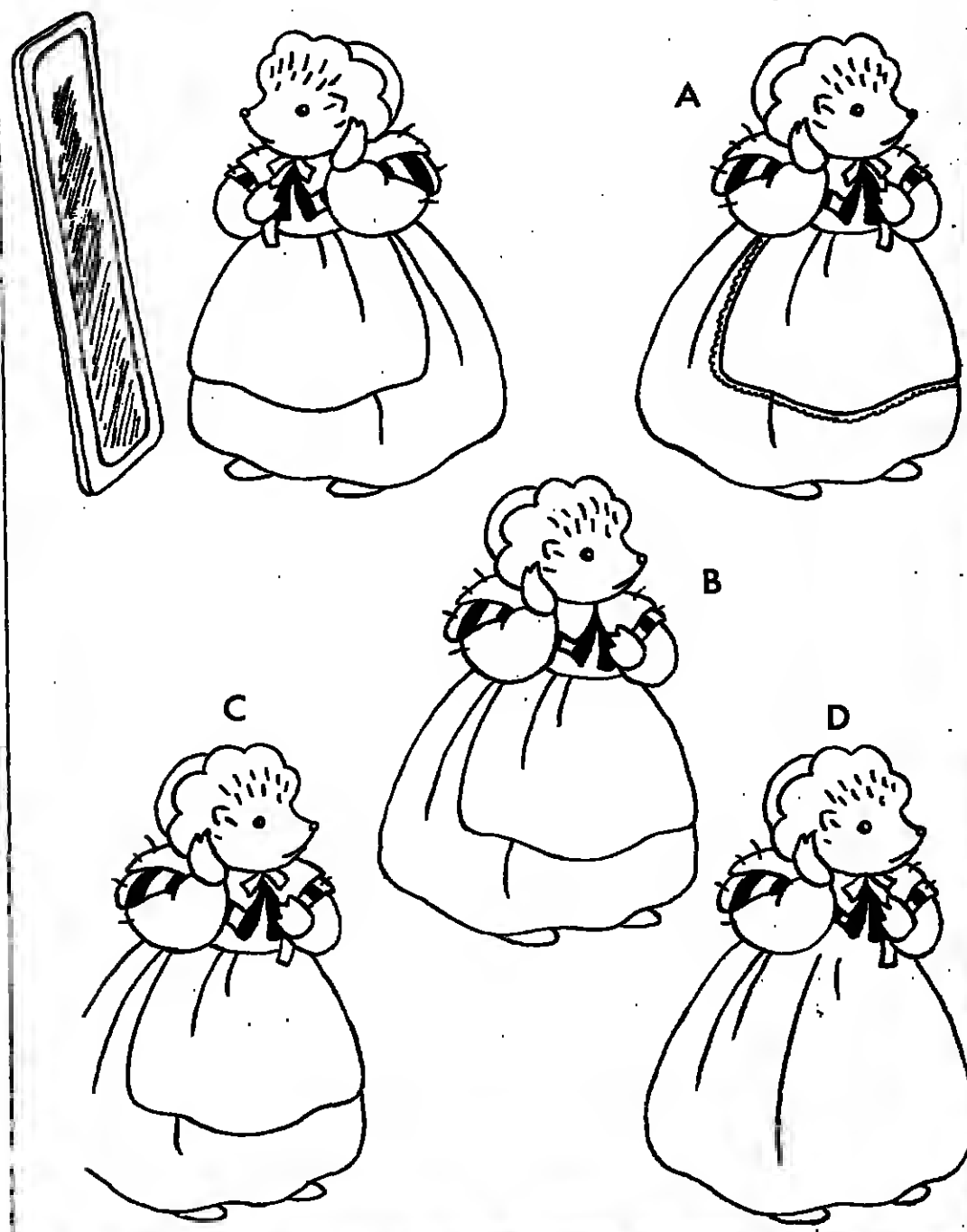


Mr and Mrs Reg and Elsie Hiller on the steps of the registry office. The new Mrs Hiller, Elsie, gives a cheeky peek at her wedding garter

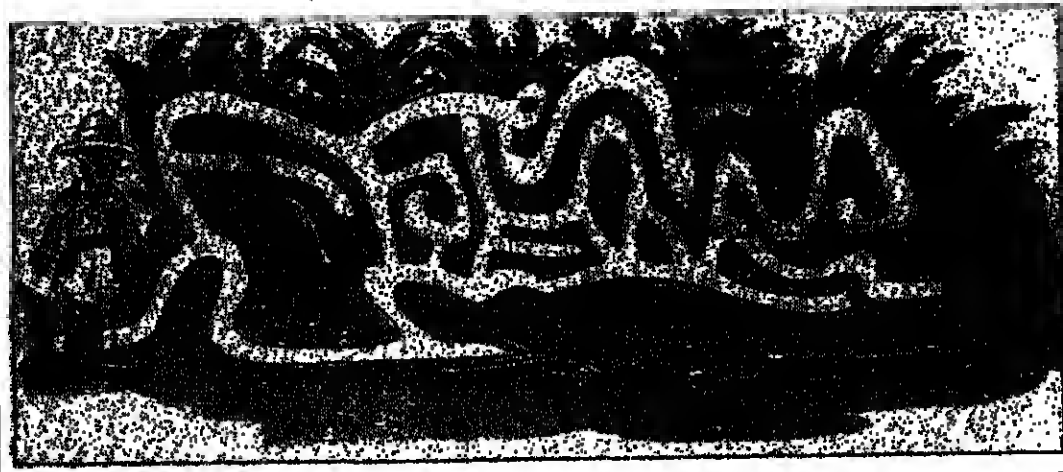
JUNIOR TIMES

Mirror, mirror

Which picture does Mrs Hedgehog see in the mirror?



Help these travellers to find their way home.



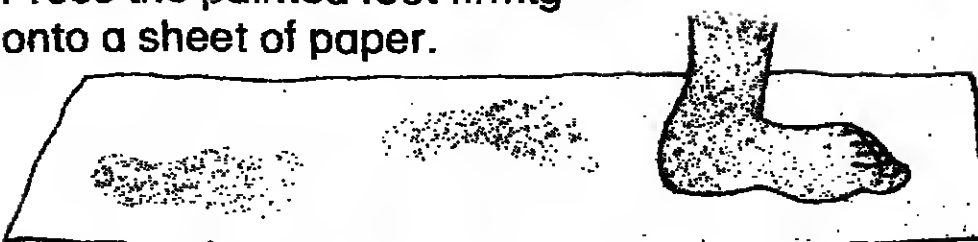
Join the science gang

What do your footprints look like? To make some you will need paper, thick powder or poster paints, a thick paint brush, a bowl of water, an old towel, someone to help.

Use the brush to paint the bottom of one foot.



Press the painted foot firmly onto a sheet of paper.



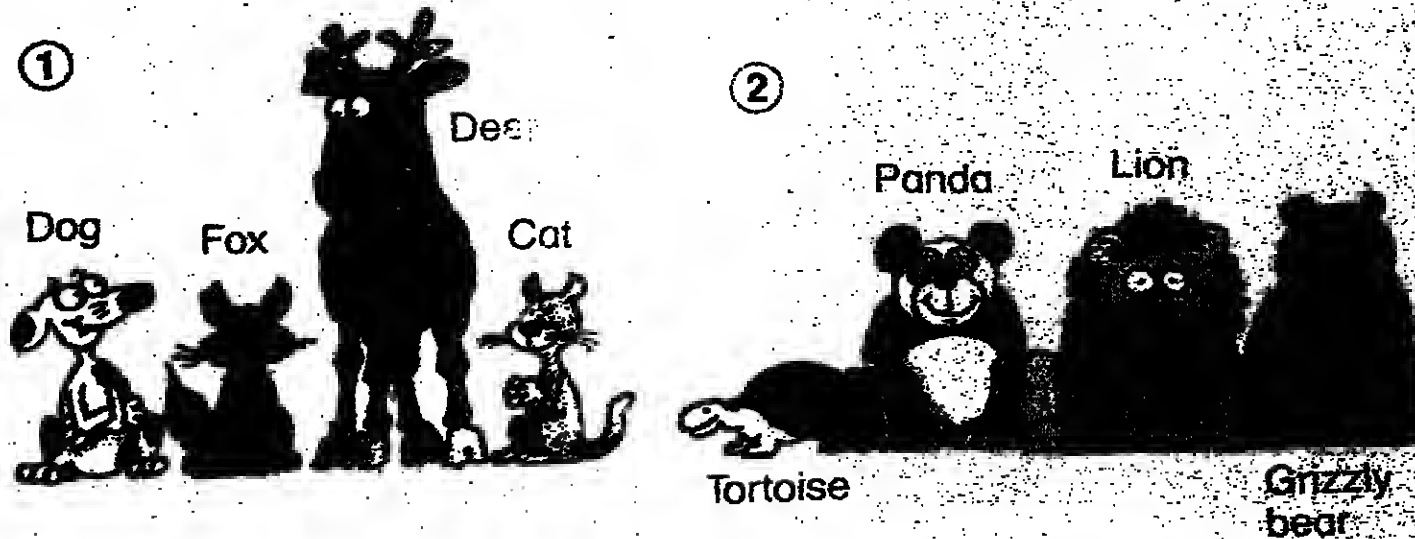
Take someone else's footprint. Is it different from yours?

You can make some patterns!



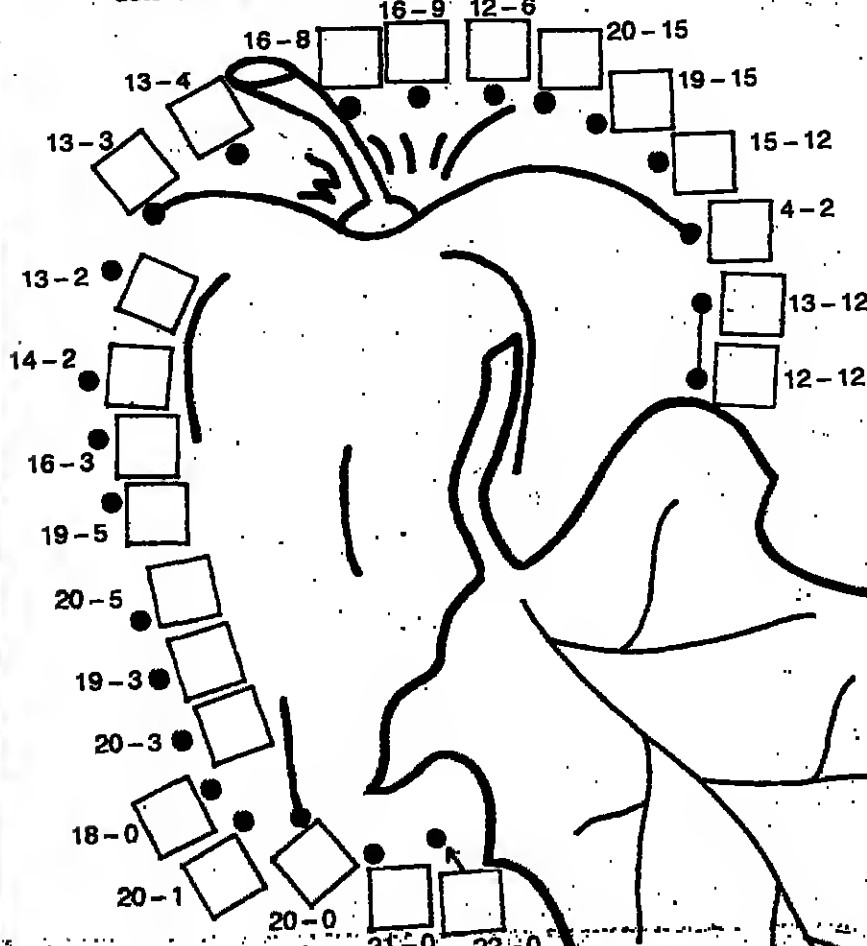
Odd animal out

Spot the odd one out in each group.

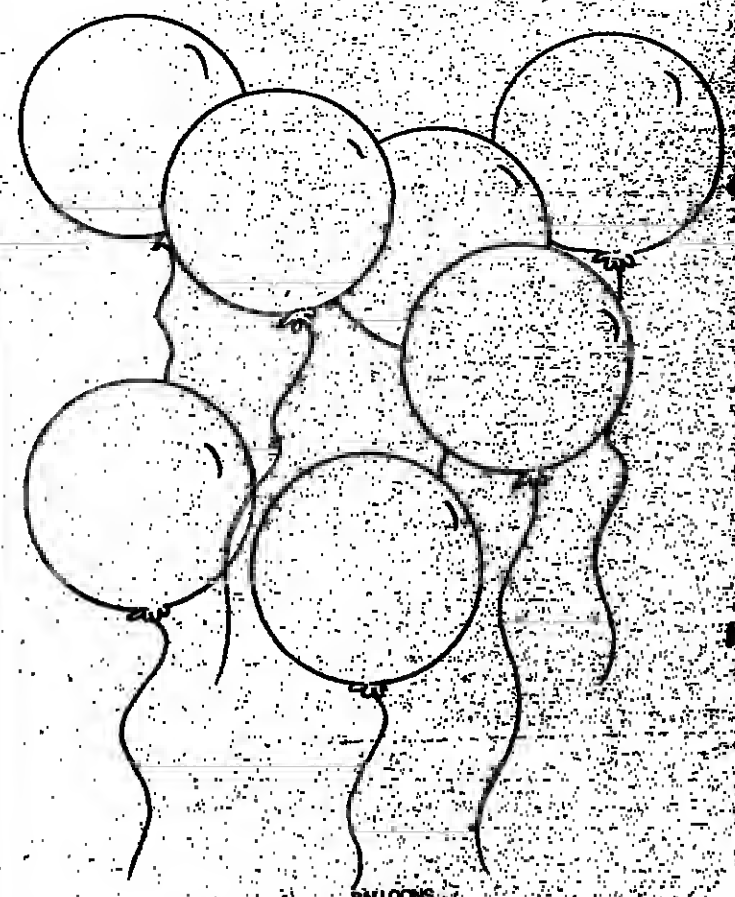


Apple And Leaf

Find the answers. Write them in the dots in order. Connect only the dots in order. Color the picture.



Colour timing



Firsts and lasts

Fireflies are bright enough to shine through the stomach of a frog.

A half-breed fox terrier living in Sydney, Australia, hates cats and has killed ten, but has kidnapped a ginger kitten and looks after it like a puppy and won't give up to its mother.

Before 1920 it was rare for trucks to move faster than 10 mph.

Pepi II was Pharaoh in Egypt for ninety-four years.

In 1958 Joy Foster became the table tennis and singles and mixed-doubles champion of Jamaica when she was eight.

A mole can dig a tunnel 100 yards long in a single night.

Rasputin 'the mad monk' was finally drowned after he had survived frequent attempts to poison him. To make sure he was dead he was also beaten with an iron bar and shot twice.

Water is still brought to the town of Segovia in Spain by an aqueduct built in AD 110 by the Romans.

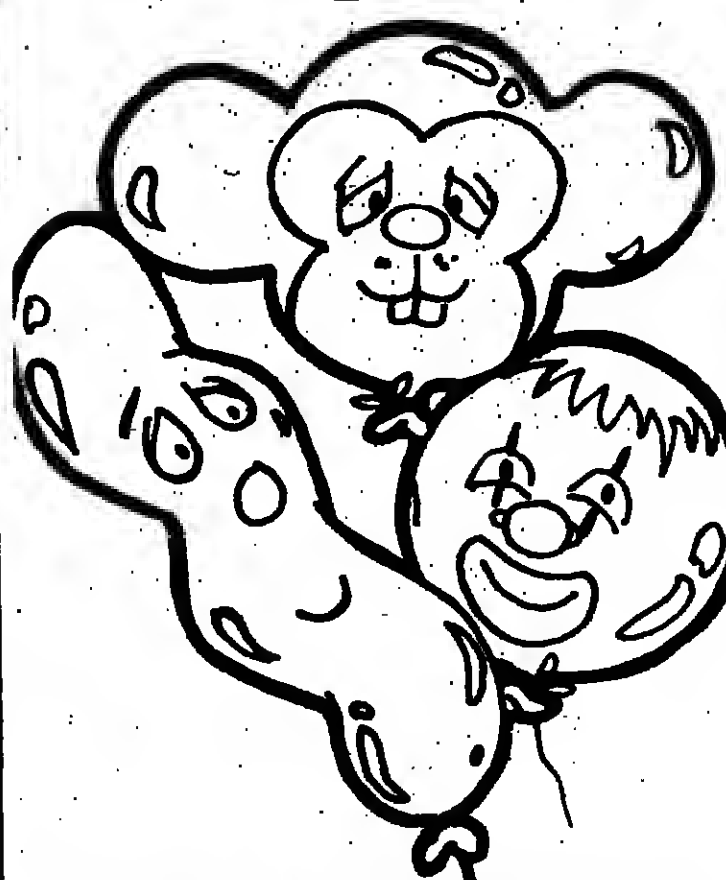
The train journey from Moscow to Vladivostok in the USSR is 6,000 miles long and takes nine days.

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D E S I G N E R U T A N C

The party



Just for laughs!

She said, "I'm getting far too fat. Can you tell me how to tuck in my bottom?"

He said, "Yes, put it to bed and tell it a story."

Did you hear the one about the watchmaker who went broke? He wound up the business.

1. Pierre is planning a party. He is having all the people in his class. There are 15 boys and 16 girls in his class. How many people are invited?

2. Ice cream bars for the party cost 25c each. If 31 people come to the party, how much will ice cream cost?

3. For the party, the cake cost \$10.50, the punch cost \$5.25 and candy cost \$4.37. How much did these things cost for the party?

4. The tablecloth, napkins, plates and cups cost \$8.37. Pierre gave the woman a twenty dollar bill. How much change did he get?

5. Each person at the party will get 3 balloons. If 31 people attended the party, how many balloons does he need?

The party will be from 5:45 in the evening until 9 in the evening. How long will the party last?

If there are 4 more girls than boys at the party and 11 boys are there, how many girls are there?

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Acknowledgement

THE article "The origins of modern financial system in Kuwait" which appeared in the Arab Times (Business Survey of Kuwait) on Feb 24, was taken from the Borgan World, a house magazine published by the Borgan Bank.

Opec ministers to meet

Low-key meeting

NICOSIA, March 12 (Agencies): Gulf Arab oil ministers expect a meeting of leading representatives of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Vienna on Friday to be a low-key gathering, an oil industry newsletter said today.

The March 16 conference of the eight-member Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) of Opec, the organisation whose members control a third of the world's crude oil, is viewed as a preparatory session for the regular mid-year meeting on May 25, the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported.

It is not expected that any decisions will be taken regarding revisions of the Opec production ceiling and quotas, or the current minimum reference price of \$18 a barrel, MEES said.

Oil ministers from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait met on March 3 to coordinate their strategy for the upcoming session of the MMC.

MEES analysts predicted that the Vienna meeting would "follow the quiet course charted by the three major Gulf producers."

Opec crude production for February was estimated to have averaged nearly 24 million barrels per day, against the official quota ceiling of 22.1 million barrels per day, oil analysts said.

Iraq, also an Opec member, favours raising the \$18 per barrel reference price to maintain its value in real terms. Kuwait opposes an increase for the next three or four years "for fear that any higher price signals to Opec's part could put a damper on the burgeoning revival of demand for Opec oil," MEES said.

The newsletter said Saudi Arabia had taken a position between those of Kuwait and Iraq.

"Saudi Arabia still holds the view that demand growth must be fully satisfied by increased production," it said.

After the March 3 meeting in Kuwait, the three ministers issued a communique saying they had reached "complete agreement to support Opec decisions and to work for oil market stability in the interests of all the oil producing countries."

Gulf oil industry sources said estimates for February Opec crude output had been raised by more than half-a-million barrels a day (bpd) over the last two weeks.

World oil prices fell almost a dollar last week on market perceptions of oversupply and prices could be forced lower by the seasonal drop in demand as the Northern Hemisphere warms in the second quarter.

A survey conducted by Reuters at the beginning of March put the group's output for February at 23.1 million bpd and the International Energy Agency estimated the 13 members pumped 23.2 million.

The oil industry sources said high output was continuing in March, at around February levels. Tanker brokers in London said last week freight rates from the Gulf would rise sharply in March as operators mopped up almost all available capacity.

Of the sources said revised February output estimates stemmed from difficulties in assessing levels for Libya, Iran and Iraq.

MEES estimated Libyan output at 1.65 million bpd, whereas the earlier Reuters survey put it at 1.25 million.

Dollar edges up

Sterling eases

LONDON, March 12 (Reuters): Shadowed by the threat of further central bank intervention, the dollar edged higher against major currencies in Europe today, but foreign exchange dealers described investor enthusiasm as low and business thin.

Memories of repeated central bank dollar selling last Monday and Wednesday, day and caution ahead of elections in East Germany next Sunday were key factors in the market, they said.

The dollar closed in London at 1.71 West German marks and 152.35 Japanese yen, up from 1.70 and 152.05 on Friday. In Geneva it was 1.71 and 152.35.

"Nobody had the courage to keep buying dollars after the dollar failed to show significant gains today," said one dealer in Frankfurt.

Since the Berlin Wall opened last November 9, the US currency has gained more than eight per cent against the mark. It has also put on about 6.5 per cent against the yen, helped by relatively high US interest rates and persistent speculation that Japan must bump up its own discount rate to prop the yen.

Britain's pound sterling—down sharply late last week on political uncertainties after strong public opposition to a new local community tax being levied from next month—was little affected today by official data showing higher than expected consumer spending in February.

The pound eased to \$1.61 and around 2.7540 marks from 1.6165 and 1.7575 on Friday. The Bank of England's trade-weighted sterling index closed 0.3 points down at 86.3, near its 1989 low of 85.8 touched last December.

Shares were generally weaker in Europe with investors opting to stay on the sidelines.

In London, the FTSE index of 100 leading shares closed 11.5 points down at 2,222.8. "Trading is abysmally slow. It's absolutely dead," said one London dealer.

Prices on the Frankfurt bourse fought back to close 0.7 per cent down after being as much as one per cent lower earlier in the session. "The market is still dogged by the same old themes—East German elections, wait-and-see, no foreign buyers," a Frankfurt trader said.

French and Swiss shares were also lower in slow business.

Gold edged back above \$400 an ounce, closing in London at \$400.25 after \$399.25 on Friday.

Dhaka must improve 'macroeconomic system'

DHAKA, March 12 (Reuters): World Bank president Barber Conable today said he was worried about the myriad problems facing poverty-stricken Bangladesh and called on the government to improve macroeconomic management.

"Bangladesh must find a balance between priorities and utilities in planning macroeconomic development and improving the quality of life of its people," he told a news conference at the end of a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

These should be efforts to harness more resources locally, cut unwarranted expenditure, bring women into more economic activities and quicken industrialisation, he said.

"Bangladesh is now at a crossroad... and I am worried over reduction in foreign exchange reserves, balance of payment problems, existence of subsidies, widespread poverty, high population growth, inflationary trends, (the level of) public sector efficiency and efficiency of the tax systems."

The country's foreign exchange reserves have shrunk to \$450 million, barely enough for one month's imports, partly because the World Bank had withheld a credit of \$330 million after Dhaka failed to fulfil some lending conditions.

"I think there has been some unnecessary delay in disbursement of the funds and we are trying to speed it up," Conable said.

He acknowledged the Bangladesh government's efforts to improve economic management, saying: "I am encouraged by the measures that the government has recently announced to stabilise the economy and curb unwarranted expenditures."

He declined to give details.

Bangladesh devalued its currency by 4.99 per cent last week and is pondering the bank's advice to raise the prices of natural gas and diesel and generate more taxes.

During his talks with President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, Conable suggested allocation of a higher share of development money to the social sectors and agriculture.

Bangladesh plans to ask for \$2.4 billion from a consortium of Western donor countries, agencies and the World Bank during the 1990/91 fiscal year, \$200 million more than this year's actual commitments.

Conable declined to predict the size of commitments at the consortium meeting to be held in Paris next April, but said Bangladesh's share from the International Development Association (IDA), the bank's concessional lending affiliate, would not be slashed.

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Writing off debts will not add any new financial burden: Sheikh Salem

By Mahmoud Abedin

MANY of the economic revival recommendations of the government sponsored programme will be implemented during the month of April. Governor of Kuwait Central Bank and head of a six-man follow-up committee, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah said.

In an exclusive interview with Al Seyassah/Arab Times, Sheikh Salem said that concentration in the implementation will be focused at the various economic sectors and added that part of the recommendations had already been implemented. Elucidating, the official said that the majority of recommendations related to the difficult debts clearance

programme had already been implemented and all other related recommendations would have been implemented by the end of the current month.

As an example, he cited the implementation of the immediate settlement of debtors whose debts do not exceed KD250,000, facilitating them to deal with their mortgaged assets.

The follow-up committee held a number of meetings and appraised the ministries and government bodies of the recommendations and requested that these recommendations be implemented within a period of one to six months. The committee has also contacted legislative bodies to issue necessary laws to facilitate the



Sheikh Salem

implementation of some of the recommendations. HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister is being continually kept

abreast with developments, Sheikh Salem said.

Companies whose charters permit borrowing from local

markets against the issuance of bonds can do so, provided they abide by rules governing this issue, the official said. He added that the Central Bank welcomes any step taken by such companies to borrow approach for an increase in funds as this will help improve the financial position of these companies.

Sheikh Salem added that a comprehensive study is still under preparation to convert Kuwait into an international and regional centre.

The writing off of these debts will not add any new financial burden on the government as the unmortgaged debts will be met by available allocations with the banks and stressed that the government does not provide commercial banks

with funds to meet the writing off of these debts.

Explaining, Sheikh Salem said that the Central Bank is the body that channels the funds to the deficit-banks which is intended to "overcome profit problems and thus help them make operational profits." He underscored the fact that such support funds will be "fully refunded by these banks after they have overcome their problems of deficit." What the government loses is the "returns that would have accrued on the support funds" the official said. However, he pointed out that the implementation of the other economic recommendations would positively add to the government financial burdens.

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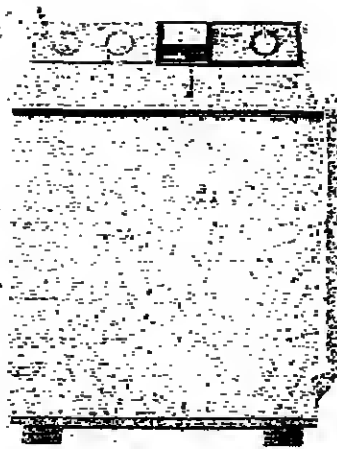
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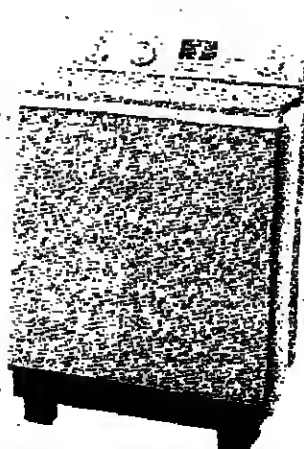
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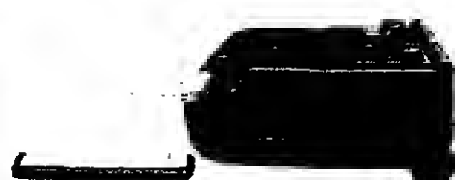
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Arabs keen to avert oil price shock

KUWAIT, March 12, (AP): The new secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries was quoted today as stressing that Arab oil producers were keen to avert a third oil price shock.

"Opec countries are determined to realise stability and avoid shocks in the oil market, as the Arab states were the first to suffer from fluctuations of oil prices which occurred in the past," Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Turki said in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper.

He was responding to a question on whether he believed the oil market crises of 1974 and 1979 would be repeated in the 1990s. "We all look toward averting such shocks in future," said Turki, a Saudi Arabian, who assumed leadership of the 11-member Opec this weekend.

In 1974, the Arabs decided to use oil as a political weapon to help the Arab side in that year's Middle East war. Prices of oil quadrupled in the wake of the embargo.

In 1979, oil prices flew to unprecedented levels in part because of the revolution in Iran, a major oil producing nation whose output nosedived.

"All predictions indicate that the demand for oil will continue to increase in the coming years, though there are differences as to the volume of the increase, which will depend on projections of factors affecting consumption, such as economic growth in key oil importing countries and the persistence of moderate prices," said Turki.

Turki, who used to be under-secretary of Saudi Arabia's Petroleum Ministry, replaces Libya's Ali Atiga.

Kuwait and Egypt to boost trade link

CAIRO, March 12, (Kuna): Industrialists from Kuwait and Egypt are to hold a meeting during the coming few weeks to discuss co-operation between the two countries to promote trade and industrial development.

Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid today told Kuna following a two-hour meeting with Egyptian Industry Minister Mohammad Abdul Wahab and was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to Cairo Abdul Razzaq Al Kandari.

Al Khalid added that bilateral relations in the field of economy have been discussed between the two sides, indicating that both sides exchanged views on promoting industrial marketing in addition to raw materials.

He also said discussions tackled possible exchange of goods needed in both countries.

The Kuwaiti official is scheduled later in the day to meet with Egyptian Agriculture Minister Youssef Wali to discuss ways of co-operation in the agricultural fields.

In another development more than five hundred experts in the insurance field were present today at the opening session of the meetings of the Arab Union for Insurance representing twenty countries including Kuwait.

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2789	0.2925
Sterling	0.4708	0.4726
DM	0.17183	0.17238
Sfr	0.19395	0.19464
Fr	0.05043	0.05108
Li	0.000377	0.000383
Yen	0.0019290	0.0019352
Bah. din	0.77724	0.77970
UAE Dir.	0.079776	0.080259
S. riyal	0.078128	0.078376
Q. riyal	0.080466	0.080744
O. riyal	0.76099	0.76360

Interest rates

KUWAIT, March 12, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-9/16	8-3/4
3 months	8-9/16	8-3/4
6 months	8-9/16	8-3/4
1 year	8-9/16	8-3/4

Exchange rates

Indian rupee	17.260
Sri Lanka rupee	7.420
Pakistan rupee	13.830
Bangladesh taka	8.580
US dollar	29.880
Pound sterling	47.250
UAE dirham	0.07996
Deutsche mark	17.240
Japanese yen	0.01937

Japan unable to cut dependence on foreign-owned oil

TOKYO, March 12, (Reuters): Japan's long-cherished dream of developing its own oil overseas and thus cutting its heavy dependence on foreign producers is unlikely to be fulfilled any time soon, government and oil industry sources say.

Japan, a late starter in the world oil exploration race, has rarely hit big oil flows in the 30 years it has been searching, despite a willingness to spend freely.

"No matter how much we try to pay, there are simply no promising fields on sale," said an official at one exploration firm. "Majors and oil producers never let go of good ones."

Industry sources and government officials agree there is little hope Japan can meet a target, set in 1983, of raising the volume of self-developed oil or oil

produced by Japanese firms overseas to 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) by 1995.

Japan, which imports more than 99 per cent of its total oil needs, has aimed since the late 1960s to boost the level of self-developed oil to some 30 per cent of its total oil imports, a Ministry of International Trade and Industry official said.

In 1988, Japanese firms produced 25.02 million kilolitres (kl) (431,000 bpd) of crude in their own concessions outside the country, Japan National Oil Corp. (JNOC) figures show. This represents only 12.5 per cent of total imports of 199 million kl (3.42 mln bpd), data supplied by the state-owned JNOC show.

The level of self-produced oil has remained at around 10 per cent for 20

years and shows no sign of rising much higher.

"The basic problem is that Japan has a very short history of oil exploration and our individual companies are dwarfed by the majors in technology and capital," said Tsutomu Toichi, chief economist at the private Institute of Energy Economics.

Except for projects conducted by giant trading houses, all the Japanese oil development projects are assisted by JNOC.

JNOC finances up to 80 per cent of the investments made by the companies in the form of loans or capital investment, a JNOC official said.

In June 1989, 24 projects assisted by JNOC were producing or about to produce crude oil or natural gas over-

seas and 65 were conducting exploration and development.

But most of the producing fields are small, pumping well below 100,000 bpd, and stakes held by Japanese firms are usually minor ones of five to 30 per cent, according to Japan Petroleum Development Association (JPDA) figures.

The money Japan has been investing in oil development is by no means small as a single country, and the government is prepared to increase the amount sharply if there are offers of good concessions — but there aren't, said the JNOC official.

JNOC provided around \$735 million to Japanese oil development projects in 1989, he said.

Of the 431,000 bpd of crude Japanese companies produced overseas in 1988,

38.0 per cent came from the concessions off the neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, 36.3 per cent from Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and 9.7 per cent from Indonesia, JPDA said in a report.

Arabian Oil Co. Ltd., Japan's largest overseas producer, pumped a total of 266,000 bpd of crude in 1989 at its two wholly owned fields, Khafji and Hout, located off the neutral zone, a company spokesman said.

But its concessions, acquired from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in 1958, will expire soon after the turn of the century and what will happen to them after that remains uncertain.

The rising trend in oil prices since 1987, combined with the appreciation of the yen since 1985, have given con-

siderable impetus to Japanese overseas oil exploration, the industry sources say.

The industry sources estimate the average current cost of Japanese companies of exploring and developing oil overseas at around \$18 to \$20 per barrel.

The newest forces among Japanese oil explorers are the big refiners and distributors, which are trying to diversify and secure their crude supply sources.

Nippon Oil Co. Ltd., Japan's largest refiner, aims to boost the volume of self-developed oil to 10 per cent of its total needs from the current one per cent, a spokesman said. It has actively been seeking oil in the United States since 1986 jointly with Chevron Corp. and Texaco Inc.

Gulf petrochemical producers to increase efficiency

Federation planned to expand industry

BAHRAIN, March 12, (Reuters): Gulf petrochemical producers are considering forming a federation to increase the efficiency of the industry and formulate a joint strategy.

"There is a feeling now for the formation of a federation of petrochemical producers to have a data bank on development and technology co-operation," said Mustafa Al Sayed, general manager of the Bahrain-based Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company.

He told Reuters after a two-day conference in Bahrain that industry ministers from the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states would have to approve the plan.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain can produce more than 11 million tonnes a year of petrochemicals and fertil-

iser, most of it from Saudi Arabia's 12 petrochemical plants.

The GCC has encouraged members to diversify from oil production and use cheap and abundant gas supplies to promote petrochemicals. But the industry faces tough competition, tariff barriers and uncertainty in world demand.

Delegates at the meeting, which ended on Sunday, said the federation plan did not include ideas to co-ordinate prices which would be left to trends on the open market.

"Most of the products from petrochemical industries in the Gulf are export-oriented," said Abdullah Nojaidi, president of Sabic marketing, the sales arm of Saudi Arabia's big petrochemical concern.

"When you are exposed to export markets you are bound to

the fluctuations in the markets," he said in an interview.

The European Economic Community (EEC) has imposed up to 13.5 per cent customs duties on GCC petrochemicals to protect its domestic industries. Around a quarter of GCC petrochemical exports are destined for the community.

Conference delegates said the fast-expanding Asian market was their main target although production capacity there was also expanding.

They said the GCC advantage of using cheap gas as a raw material would offset the drawback of being far from markets.

Most GCC states are also planning to boost shipping fleets to reduce dependence on hired ships.

Gulf officials also plan to stimulate demand at home. "There has to be a minimum

requirement for some of the basic products to be consumed within the GCC to have stable prices," Nojaidi said.

But delegates said the GCC market, with a population of 17 million, was too small to absorb the bulk of the production.

To expand the Gulf market, officials are urging the private and public sector to invest in secondary or downstream products, used in plastics and detergents and produced from the basic products coming out of the current plants.

Nojaidi said this would increase demand from the basic products and help protect them from world price and demand fluctuations. It would also substitute for imports.

He said secondary products had more added value and were not as vulnerable to price fluctuations as basic ones.



Simon meets Belgian team

Crown Prince Albert of Belgium heading the high powered Belgian Economic Mission was received by Hermann Simon, General Manager, Kuwait International Hotel.

US envoy calls for trade reforms

Japan urged to reduce tensions

TOKYO, March 12, (AP): US Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost kicked off a week of trade talks today by urging Japan to enact sweeping economic reforms both to reduce trade tensions and to improve the lot of Japanese consumers.

As US Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher travelled to Tokyo for meetings this week with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other top officials, Armacost called for measures to resolve structural causes of the \$49 billion trade deficit with Japan.

"It's a happy coincidence that many of the steps that appear likely to have that result would at the same time increase the efficiency of the market and improve the quality of life of ordinary Japanese," Armacost told a gathering of US and Japanese businessmen.

"It's essential that the Japanese government promptly address structural reform issues now," he said.

In trade talks known as the structural impediments initiative, Washington is urging Japan to increase investment in public infrastructure such as roads and parks, to act to stop land price inflation, and to make its retail distribution system more efficient and open to new products — steps it says will help cut the trade imbalance and improve living standards for Japanese.

Kaifu and other Japanese officials are struggling to push some reforms suggested by the structural trade talks before early April, when an interim report on the talks is due.

Mosbacher and other top Commerce Department officials also were expected to call for swift action by Tokyo to calm swelling support for protectionist measures in the US Congress.

"We need to make sure there is a clear understanding between the president and the prime minister. There is a certain sense of urgency on the trade problem," Mosbacher told reporters in Washington, referring to a March 2-3 summit in California in which both leaders promised to do their best to show substantive results before the interim report.

Kaifu, since his return from the summit, has strongly urged government officials and members of Japan's parliament to support structural trade reforms. On Saturday, he called key cabinet members together to develop concrete plans for making reforms before next month's deadline.

The cabinet members reportedly agreed to increase government spending on sewer systems, housing and parks to comply with the US request for more public works spending but balked at a US demand to raise such outlays from 7 per cent to 10 per cent of Japan's gross national product.

Nigeria and banks set to meet for debt talks

LONDON, March 12, (Reuters): Nigeria and its leading foreign bank creditors meet next week to London for talks which could lead to an easing of the country's \$32 billion debt burden, British bankers and analysts said today.

Nigeria is expected to seek relief from an estimated \$3.6 billion of interest payments due this year to banks and the so-called Paris Club of government creditors.

President Ibrahim Babangida said last month that Lagos hopes to cancel some of its debt to Western nations after talks with the Paris Club, expected to get under way later this year.

"The Nigerians have asked for a meeting, but haven't said what they want — we are waiting with bated breath," said Jolyon Larkman, international banking director at Barclays Plc, which co-chairs the country's commercial banks steering committee with Citibank of the United States and Banque Nationale de Paris.

Bankers and analysts believe Nigeria has been pressed into seeking debt reduction by a 1990 government budget, approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), that sets aside only \$2.1 billion for debt service payments.

Analysts said the country this year owes \$5.6 billion in total interest and principal payments to foreign creditors.

The debt servicing total includes interest due bank and the Paris Club, as well as obligations to the World Bank, bilateral credit agencies and private trade creditors.

"Any outcome will have to include debt reduction," said an analyst when asked to comment on the prospect for talks with the banks. "Conventional rescheduling just isn't going to work."



A Japanese money dealer gets himself up against the ceiling during foreign exchange trading at a Tokyo brokerage firm yesterday as the dollar hit a high of 152.18 yen in nervous trading. The US currency closed at 152.00 yen against 151.23/25 in New York on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stocks dip as yen falls

TOKYO, March 12, (Reuters): Tokyo shares closed sharply lower today in a falling yen prompted investors to sell off and head for the sidelines.

Turnover was only 370 million shares, marginally compared with recently modest trade. Volume was 650 million on Friday.

"The yen hit 152 against the dollar and bond prices were low, so no one wanted to buy," said one foreign broker.

The market consensus is that a discount rate rise is likely as soon as Friday, given the yen's persistent weakness and despite repeated attempts by the Bank of Japan and other central banks to defend it by selling dollars.

The dollar closed Friday at 152.00 yen, its advance against 151.23 and 1.7033 at Friday's New York close.

In Sydney, the market was quiet following a lower close on Wall Street on Friday and with little direction from Tokyo.

The All-Industries index fell 11.7 points to 2,418.3, with turnover a thin 49.66 billion shares worth \$92.21 million, and declining issues outpacing gainers by about three to two.

In Taipei, the stock index ended slightly firmer after a day of uneasy trading that saw prices see-saw amid general investor indecision, dealers said.

Middle East food imports growing

TUNIS, March 12, (Reuters): Food imports into the Middle East have been growing at 13 per cent a year and could cost Arab states nearly \$90 billion by the year 2000, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said today.

In a report to a conference on regional co-operation in agricultural development, the agency described the food gap as serious and worrisome, particularly in cereals.

FAO director-general Edouard Saouma told the conference in Tunis that food production was consistently falling behind population growth in the Middle East, which for FAO purposes extends from Mauritania to Pakistan and Sudan to Turkey.

Arab states had performed worst in production and their food import bill had grown from an average of \$3.3 billion a year in the first half of the 1970s to 16 billion in the middle of the 1980s, the report said.

Saouma said that, with the end of the cold war in Europe and better prospects for disarmament, it could be hoped that the major powers would divert more money to development aid.

Under the present system, Libyan adults are entitled to 300 dinars for each two-year period. Almost everyone tries to take advantage of the allowance and the General People's Congress (parliament) heard many complaints that the Central Bank had been slow in disbursing them.

Tokyo shares		
Nikkei stock average: 3336.23 (624.89)		
Volume: 370 mill shs		
Yen exchange rate: 152.00		
Name of stock	Q	Q
Advantech Corp	2120	-150
Ajinomoto	2150	-150
Alps Electric	2040	-20
Asuma	1720	-20
Ashik Glass	1010	+10
C. Itoh Co.	932	+1
Casio Inc.	1550	-60
Casio Comp	1470	-70
Dai Nippon Printing	2060	-30
Daiichi Sanyaku	2670	-30
Dainippon Ph	2500	-80
Doshinbank Corp	1950	+30
Eisai	2010	+40
Famco Ltd.	8030	-100
Fuji Photo	3960	-120
Fujitsu Ltd.	1420	-30
Hitachi Credit	1650	0
Hitachi Koki	2040	-10
Hitachi Ltd.	1530	0
Hitachi Metal	1530	+20
Honda Motor	1650	0
Ito Yokado Co	3950	-20
Kajima Corp	1980	-20
Kawasaki H I	831	-22
Kobe Cast Iron	1330	-20
Kokusai Elec	2500	-40
Komatsu Ltd.	1080	+10
Kyocera Corp	7280	-180
Mitsubishi Ind	2920	-10
Matsushita Ind	3720	-60
Mats Electric	2060	-20
Mazda M C	855	-29
Mitsubishi Corp	1510	-0
Mitsubishi Estate	1920	-70
Mitsubishi H I	990	-3
Mitsui B F	2270	-70
Mizuno Corp	1830	-20
Moebius Ph	4460	+10
Mon Seiki Co.	3940	0
NBC Corp	1920	-30
Nippon Corp	1390	-20
Nippon Shin Co	1410	+20
Nippon Steel Corp	642	-9
Nissan Corp	2240	-10
Nissai Corp	1670	-10
Nomura Sec	2730	-30
Okuma Mach	1530	-60
Onward K Co.	2020	-30
Orin Corp	3680	-310
Pioneer Sec Co	6480	-110
Renown Look Inc	2110	+10
Sanyo Elec Co.	860	-0
Secom Co., Ltd.	6420	-20
Shin-Etsu Chem	1650	-40
Shindengen Elec	1330	-30
Sony Corp	7920	-110
Sumitomo Elec Ind.	1530	-40
Sumitomo Metal Ind.	714	-50
Takada Chemical	1970	-30
TDK Corp	6870	-150
Tokyo Marine & Fire	1760	-20
Tokyo Elec Power	4900	-70
Tokyo Electron Ltd	4080	-50
Toppan Printing	1950	-40
Toray Ind Ltd	865	-5
Toshiba Corp.	1100	-10
Yamaha Motor	2320	-10
Yaskawa Elec	1100	0
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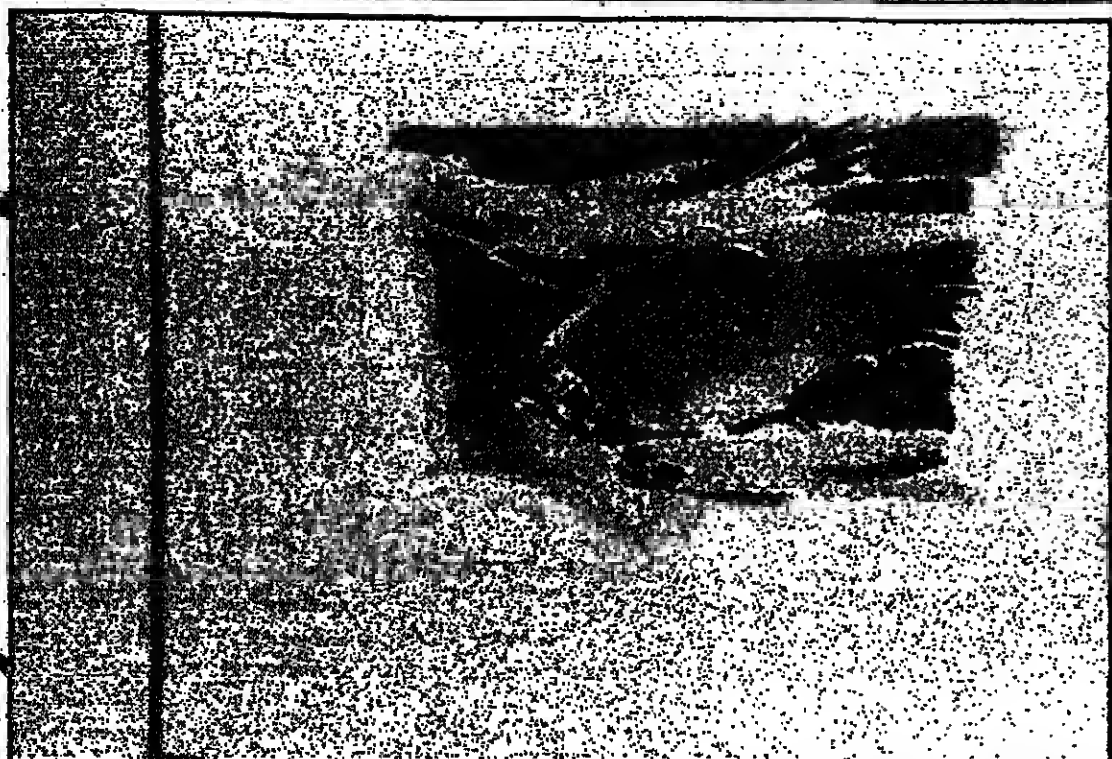
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Faraj Daham at Boushahri Gallery

The ambassador of the state of Qatar to Kuwait, Ahmed G. Al Rumaili recently patronised the opening of an exhibition by Faraj Daham at the Boushahri Gallery. The Gallery's opening hours are 9:00 - 12:30 pm and 4:00 and 8:30 pm.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Khir News
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial
11.30 Sabah Al Khir News
11.35 Challenges: Foreign Cultural Programme
12.15 Sabah Al Khir News
12.25 News Summary
12.30 Sabah Al Khir News
12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (Repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: Cartoon Serial
5.5 The World Of Tomorrow: Cultural Serial
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
6.00 Waqala Hakeem: Historical Serial
6.45 Varieties
7.00 Cultural Programme (part 3)
8.00 Made In Kuwait: Local Information Programme, Prepared and Presented by Dr Ali Al Damkhi
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News In Arabic
9.45 Lil Adala Wajh Akhar: Arabic Daily Serial, (part 1) starring Afaf Shuaib, Omar Al Hareri, Safa Al Sabe
10.45 Al Burkan: Weekly Serial, starring Rasheed Assaf, and Fadeya
11.30 News Summary
11.35 The World Today via Satellite
12.00 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Diplotos. A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Little World Of Dictmar Fill. "The Survival" A look at salt lakes and beaches in Australia and how certain animals and birds are adapted to the environment
7.00 Peaceable Kingdom. Rebecca agrees to proceed on a picnic while one of her assistants disappointed of being not accepted to head a group of researchers.
8.00 News in English.
8.30 You and the Law.
8.45 Coming Of Age. "Daddy's Girl". Gennie's father comes to visit his daughter who attempts to convince her husband to invite her father to stay permanently with them. Her father refuses her request.
9.15 The American Century
10.00 The Twilight Zone
10.30 The Silk Route Of The Sea. Journey's Beginning And Journey's End. "Chang Yang" river known by the Arabs as "Yang Tse" river, which crosses a distance of 6,300 km through China from the Tibet plateau, was considered an important part of the historical Silk Route.
11.30 A Man Called Hawk. "If Memory Services" Hawk is asked to protect a man who has a very strong memory and chased by general assistants in order to give them secret combination of the state's treasury.
12.15 News in Brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite

CHANEL



Chanel Boutique moves to Salhiya Commercial Complex

Chanel Boutique has moved from its previous location at the Kuwait International Hotel to the Salhiya Commercial Complex which marks a period of success and prosperity. Since its inauguration in Kuwait in 1983, Chanel Boutique has been able to build, with the notion of taste at the core, a strong link between East and West. It has also developed and continuously spread the latest word in French fashion. Born in 1883, Gabrielle Chanel became known as "Coco" in 1910 and "Mademoiselle" in 20s. Today Chanel leads the world in the creation of fashion, fragrance and cosmetics, leathers goods, accessories and watches. Chanel Boutique in Kuwait vowed to open new horizons in glamour and style and to continue to strive for excellence in our market. By presenting the new lands of fashion, Kuwait is a unique star in the Eastern skies. In an atmosphere of opulence, the new Chanel Boutique was inaugurated in Salhiya Commercial Complex under the patronage of Sheikhha Nashmiya Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, in the presence of Alain Kowalik, commercial director of Chanel Fashion, who came specially from Paris to attend the inauguration, and with the attendance of a large number of Kuwait's high society.



'Samarpan' celebrates Kuwait National Day

"Samarpan" an association of Gujarati-speaking Indians celebrated 29th Kuwait National Day by organising picnic-cum-sports on February 25, 1990 at a farm in Watra Village. More than 500 members started the journey of about 120 kms from various spots of Kuwait by buses and private cars, at 7.30 am. All the members were greeted by the host Yusu Ali Kamal of Yusu Ali Kamal Agricultural and Poultry Farms at Watra Village.

Various games were conducted for all the ages. Indian snacks and food were prepared and served hot at the site. The host kindly consented to distribute prizes to the winners. As a token of love and appreciation a gift was presented to the host on behalf of Samarpan. The programme was concluded with "tug of war" between the President's and Vice President's teams.

At 5.30 pm return journey started. Most of the members visited Watra village and such farms for the first time who were amazed and fascinated seeing the greenery and development on the agricultural sector. Everyone wholeheartedly congratulated HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, various ministries, in general and the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Wealth in particular, together with Kamal and other farm owners for their dedication and efforts in developing such beautiful farms.

This programme was organised by honorary office bearers of "Samarpan" who are as follows: president — Dr. Salish Parikh; vice-president — Amarsinh Thakore; secretary — Jilandra Dasandi, 1st secretary — Mahendra Shah; treasurer — Rudra Trivadi.

Committee members: Shreyas Munshi, Madankumar Patel, Deepakkumar Patal, Kirit Thakkar, Prahlad Chudasama, Sudhirchandra Bhagat. Picture shows: members enjoying hot Indian cuisine.



Shatadal observe Shaheed Day

THE Shatadal cultural group commemorated the Shaheed Day (Martyrs Day) with a function on Feb 27, at the Mesilla Beach Hotel. Mohsin Ali Khan, the Political Counsellor at the Embassy of Bangladesh was the chief guest. Khondkar Abdul Hannan, the president of Shatadal was in the chair.

At the discussion session, speakers paid tributes to the martyrs of Bengali language movement of 1952. The speakers were Jamal Haider, Mohiuddin Khondker, Waesuddin Bhuyan, Zaheruddin Ahmed, Khondker M. Khurshid Alam, Ismail Bhuyan, Amir Hossain, Noorul Anwar and A.S. Tazul Hasan. Rashid Haider, Fousia Rashid, Abu Taher, Rosy Zahed, Aminul Huq, Habibun Nahar Hannan and Babul Akhtar Noor recited poems. A.S.M. Shah Kamal and ABM. Faizullah recited self-composed poems. Sheikh Nurul Islam, Subir Ghosh, Nazrul Islam, Ahsanul Karim and Kamaluddin sang patriotic songs.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia
Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajah Museum, Jahriya. Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397; or 5318060.

SOCIAL

Shakespeare's Macbeth
THE London Shakespeare Group, who have already received rave reviews for their performance of Macbeth in Bahrain, Doha, Muscat and the Emirates, will perform at the Kuwait English School, Salwa on March 21 and 22, 1990 at 8 pm and on March 23, 1990, at 6 pm. The cast includes professional actors and actresses with classical backgrounds, who have appeared at the London's prestigious National Theatre, television and radio. All seats are numbered and can be reserved by ringing 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143 or 5731782.

Jazz concert
THE Kuwait Happy Times Jazz Orchestra in concert playing Jazz from Miller to Modern. Hear great Jazz by Kuwait's only 15 pieces "Big Band" March 13, 14 at 7:30 pm in the Kuwait English School. Call 5334912 or 5314107 for ticket information.

ACT auditions
AUDITIONS for ACT's upcoming production of Joe Orton's "Entertaining Mr Sloane" will be held Tuesday, March 13 at 8 pm. The play will be directed by Thomas Zugic and will be performed May 11-13 at the Mousetrap Theatre. Three males of varying ages and mature female are needed. For details, call 5321367 or 5620332.

Kuwait Little Theatre
KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Holi — Festival of Colours
THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Fun-a-tees with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Contact
THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details tel: 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

APPROB ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding a seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution. Javed Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Mohammad Iqbal and a retired justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will preside over the seminar at Sheraton Hotel on March 25th.

Dr. Iqbal will read a research paper on "The struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mrs. Iqbal, a law graduate from the Harvard University and law professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "The role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal." A number of research papers on the Pakistan movement and the ideology of Pakistan will also be read at the seminar to be attended by diplomats and prominent personalities.

Approb will also hold an evening with Dr Iqbal and his wife on March 24th at the residence of Iqbal Latif to acquaint Pakistani children in Kuwait about the ideology of Pakistan. Dr Iqbal will meet the Pakistani community at the Pakistan embassy on March 26. For further details, contact Approb: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Bangladesh get-together
A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23. The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo. For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

British Council
Children's Books of the Year 1989 Exhibition: March 10-22 at the gallery. An exhibition of award-winning British published books arranged by The British Council in association with the Kuwait Bookshops Co. Ltd. Orders of books on display may be ordered through the Kuwait Bookshops which will also offer other British-published books at special prices.

Wednesday, March 14, 6.00 pm: Film showing. The Worst Witch — Film fantasy adapted from the children's book "The Worst Witch" by Jill Murphy. It is the magical tale of a school for witches where things have a habit of going slightly awry. 70 mins.

Thursday, March 15, 10.30 am: Story telling by a professional story teller. Please book seats by calling 2515512, 2533304, 2533277.

Studying Medicine in Britain: March 12-13, 1990, 5-8 pm only. Do you need information on studying for a medical degree or for professional medical qualifications in Britain? If so, you are welcome to attend our education information "surgery" — come along with your questions about undergraduate or post-graduate medicine — we will be dealing with each enquirer on an individual basis. Please visit the Education Information Office, the British Council.

Daniella Desert Rally
The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Badesik Picnic
Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangaf family beach on March 23. The events included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik member's are requested to contact general secretary Khalidur Rahman on tel: 4330025 for more details.

Ladies International League of Kuwait upcoming events
L.I.L. Desert Picnic on Friday, March 23, 1990. Members and their guests. For further information and tickets please contact Barbara on 5325131. Deadline for tickets is March 17.

L.I.L. Bazaar on Thursday, May 10, 1990. Interested vendors please contact Celia 2434946.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Kewt Anr Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

Ninth Kuwait gold & jewellery exhibition

NINTH Kuwait gold and jewellery exhibition is being held at the Grand Ballroom of Kuwait Sheraton Hotel. Al Rajiah Media International, which organised the same successfully is organising it second time. Ten famous Kuwaiti jewellers are going to display their latest and best designs. The exhibition will continue up to March 15, 1990. It will be open for public from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 4.30 to 8 pm.

Photography classes
PHOTOGRAPHY classes by Anne Eid beginning Saturday, March 17, in Surra. Call: Anne - 2426135.

HOTELS

Bite 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 5634663.

Messilah Beach Hotel
Messilah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialities every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Al Mubarakiah Restaurant.

All your favourite dishes from the Gulf. Selected items prepared to your liking in the relaxed atmosphere decorated with that maritime touch with live background music.

Kuwait International Hotel
TURKISH Fashion Show: In addition to traditional cuisine there will be a handicraft and carpet exhibition, folk dances, folk music. Gala buffet dinner with an elaborate fashion show and cultural evening on March 16 and 19. Turkish set menu and a special fashion show on March 17 and 18, in the Fialaka Restaurant. Tickets at: 2530000 ext. 4010.

Bella Italia: There is a new experience in Italian style dining every evening at La Palma Restaurant from 12 to March 21. Specially flown in for the occasion, chefs Manuel and Roberto Ruppel will present an unlimited selection of pasta, Mediterranean seafood and desserts. Bellissimo! One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Telephone: 2530000 ext. 8166.

Al Salam Hotel

A GRAND Moroccan festival was launched March-10 at the El Bender Coffee Shop of Al Salam Hotel. This festival is being sponsored by the Moroccan embassy and Royal Air Maroc. An exotic display of handicrafts, a detailed view of national highlights, will be followed by an attractive buffet adequately dressed by a Moroccan chef. Besides plenty of prizes and surprises, a return air ticket to Morocco will top the bill of entertainment. The festival will continue until March 16.

SPORTS

Winston Bridge Tournament
The SAS Bridge Club will hold a mixed pair tournament on Friday, 16th March at 2:00 p.m. at SAS Hotel.

Ahmad kart racing
THIS Friday sees the highlight of the racing season with the holding of the prestigious Middle East Kart Championship.

This year we have a truly international event with some of karting's top drivers coming from UK, Austria, Brunel, Cyprus and Dubai as well as our own drivers who hail from UK, USA, Canada, Austria and Lebanon. Some of the world's fastest equipment will be in use with speeds of up to 150 kph down the straight.

Racing starts at 12 noon but come early to get a seat in the stands.

There is the usual hot foods, sandwiches and drinks from the snack bar.

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Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
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PRAYERS

Fajr	4.41 am
Zohr	11.58
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	5.55
Isha	7.11

CINEMA

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Al Sahmiah
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Al Hamra
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Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Hum Bhi Insaan Hain
Fahad Open
Street Justice
Al Jahra
Accident
Granada
Unnikrishnaante aadhyatme
Christmas
Sulabikhat
Breakin & Enterin
Jeeb
Raj Bikari
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

NOW AVAILABLE

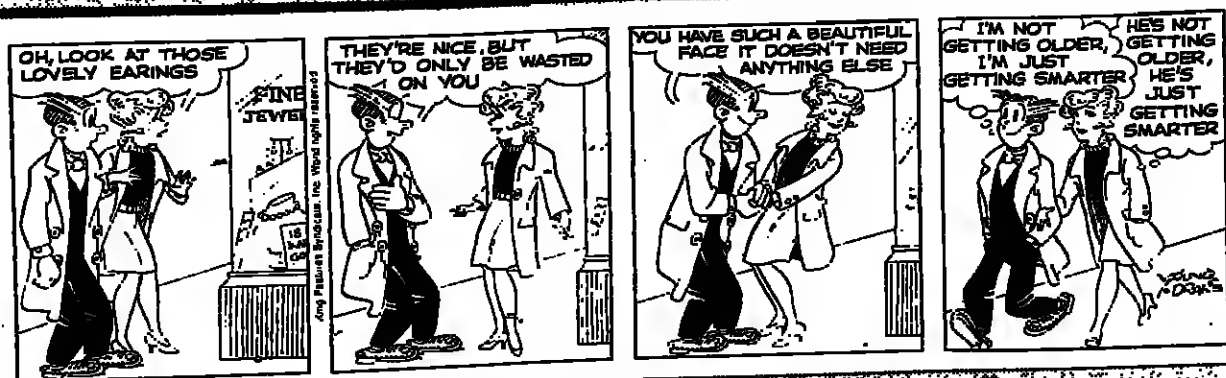
The Original & covered copy of Indian film in National Cinema Co's

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LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



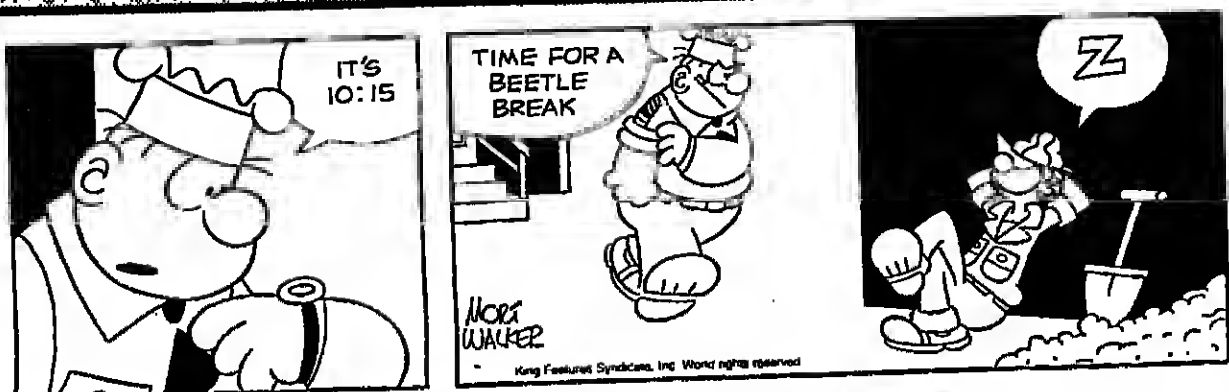
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Grant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



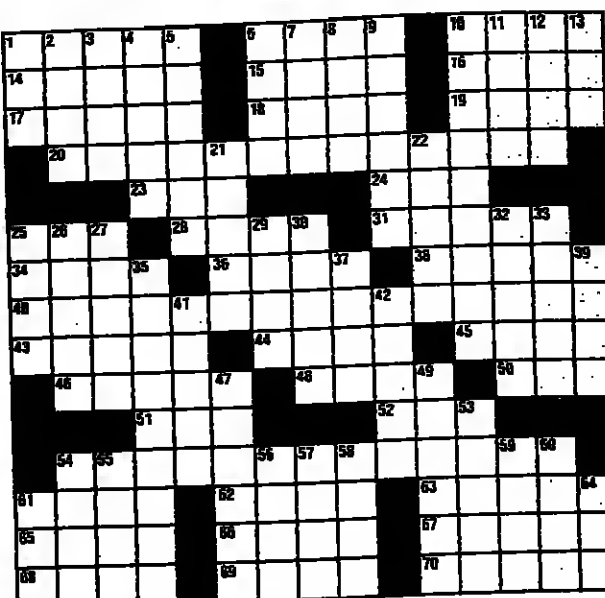
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forten & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Palindromic title
 - 6 Thought
 - 10 Sort of ship or story
 - 14 Lesson
 - 15 Hit
 - 16 Nobelist Wiesel
 - 17 Henry VIII was one
 - 18 Genoa coin
 - 19 Serge scourge
 - 20 Mockingly
 - 23 Auction ending
 - 24 Road —
 - 25 Dental deg.
 - 28 Teke ten
 - 31 Levels
 - 34 Cupid
 - 36 Accomplishes
 - 38 Make lews
 - 40 Delta
 - 43 Path lead-in
 - 44 Flie or flail
 - 45 Christmas candy
 - 46 Fragment: Var.
 - 48 A Simon
 - 50 One of the Grants
 - 51 Golf goal
 - 52 Crone
 - 54 Parental admonition
 - 61 Exist
 - 62 Lowest high tide
 - 63 Attention getter, in court
 - 65 King toppers
 - 66 Magazine for the fashionable
 - 67 Poet's muse
 - 68 Stylographs
 - 69 Actress Anna
 - 70 Freshen again
- DOWN**
- 1 Wrestler's surface
 - 2 Adjoin
 - 3 Pedestal part
 - 4 Make amends
 - 5 Corporate "marriage"
 - 6 — of Man
 - 7 Half of MCIV
 - 8 Merit
 - 9 Geronimo was one
 - 10 Like Jene Pauley
 - 11 "...sin to tell —"
 - 12 Chain component
 - 13 Permit
 - 21 Skin
 - 22 Imitation
 - 23 Mimic a whirlybird
 - 25 Sample record
 - 26 Refuse
 - 27 Dixie, with "The"
 - 29 Tender
 - 30 Rockies' range
 - 32 Part of USNA
 - 33 Play segment
 - 35 Depth
 - 37 Pump or platform
 - 39 Ash or aspen
 - 41 Goddesses of the seasons
 - 42 Nobelist
 - 47 Plothead planes
 - 49 More sizable
 - 53 Luster
 - 54 Riviera resort
 - 55 Part of a stove
 - 56 Touched
 - 57 Eli
 - 58 Ready for business
 - 59 "The Terrible"
 - 60 Musical
 - 61 Racetrack circuit
 - 64 Heard from the herd

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

RAISE SEES GEE
ALLEN TAMER RAN
PALEO ARISE ASIA
SISTERIN LAW NET
HAIRS MIAOUE
ASSERT ERIC
JOY SEGAL ECHOS
ALES SAGAS KIITE
ROPER LEMUR LON
MEET MENOIO
BROKER PEACE
LIT FIRSTCOUSIN
ACH BOAT LRAIE
ZEE OELLA LOGES
ERR SYMIS SINDRI

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
DON'T BLOW YOUR COVER!

Both vulnerable with 60 on score.
West deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 9 8 3
♥ 6 5
♦ Q 2
♣ J 10 7 6

WEST
♠ K J 2
♥ K 7
♦ A 5
♣ A Q 9 8 5 4

EAST
♠ 7 6 4
♥ Q J 8 2
♦ 9 8 3
♣ K 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 5
♥ A 10 4 3
♦ K J 10 7 6 4
♣ 3

The bidding:
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
3 ♠ Pass Pass 3 ♠
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Rubber bridge is at its most interesting when one side, or both, possesses a partscore. You must be prepared to take risks to prevent the opponents from completing their rubber, or game.

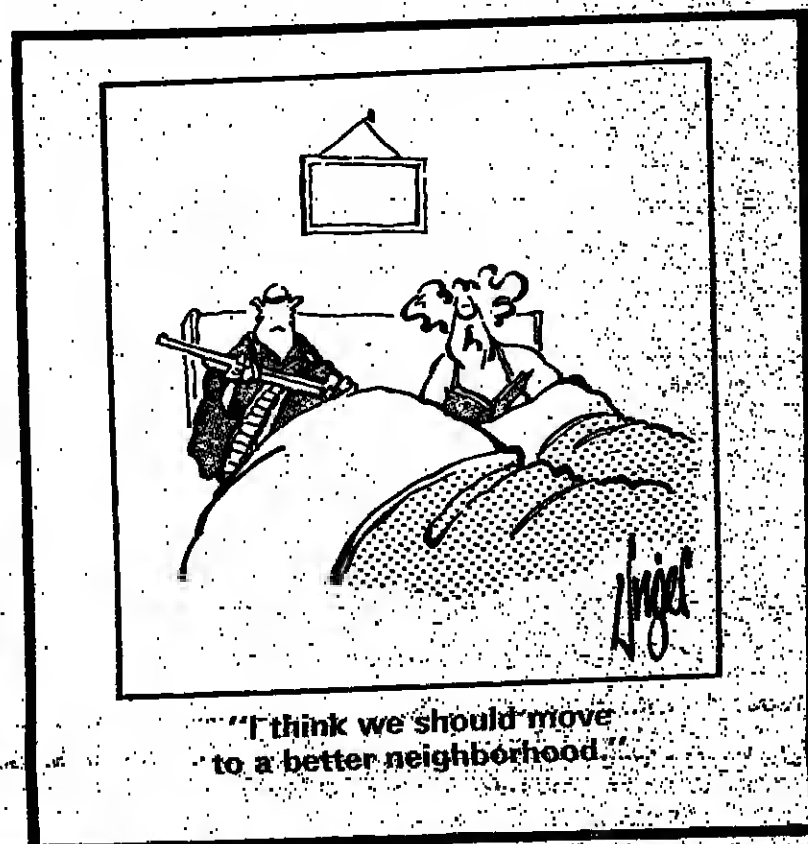
Had there been no partscores, North's overall would have been considered, at best, dubious. Under the given circumstances, however, it was incumbent on North to enter

the fray and it resulted in North-South buying the contract at a feasible level.

In order to prevent declarer from scoring ruffs in dummy, West, Mortimer Selinger of West Palm Beach, Fla., attacked with ace of diamonds and another. To establish a convenient means of communication to the closed hand declarer led a club from the table at trick three. East rose with the king and continued with a club, ruffed by South.

After drawing the last trump declarer led the queen of spades. Had West made the instinctive play of covering declarer would have racked up the contract. West's king of spades would have been allowed to hold, declarer would have won any return and taken a finesse for the jack of spades. When that suit divided evenly declarer would have collected 10 tricks.

All that was foiled by a simple tactic—West refused to cover the queen of spades. As a result, there was no way to set up and cash the spades and declarer had to be satisfied with two tricks in the suit for a total of eight—one fewer than he had contracted for. After this fine defense, it was only fitting that East-West went on to win the rubber on the next deal.

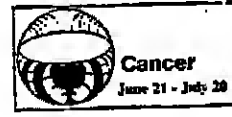


YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20

If you have made a promise be sure to keep it. Something you had expected will turn out to be rather different from what you had expected. Better in some respects, worse in others. Be true to your word.



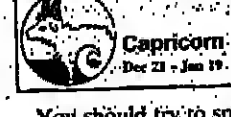
Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Everything is taking that much longer so do a little more that you do not waste time. And concentrate on essentials leaving the smaller things for later. Take better care of your health. Be candid.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Your financial affairs are not as sound as you may think so take more care of them. What ought to be done should be done right away. Try harder to distinguish between what is and is not inevitable. Be forgiving.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You should try to spend a little more time with your family and friends. Less with mere acquaintances. A little bit of generosity will be greatly appreciated. You should avoid becoming involved in a problem that does not really concern you. Be careful.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You will find it hard to make up your mind between two alternatives. However a decision will have to be made and the sooner the better. Do not hesitate to ask for advice and do compare notes too. Be sensible.



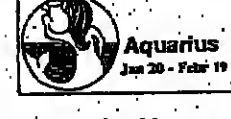
Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

You are prone to concentrate on what you like doing leaving for later what you do not like. Instead try to do a bit of either. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 27. You are eating far too many sweet things, cut down. Be moderate.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

You should concentrate on things that can be changed for the better. Listen more attentively to what others are saying. Do not allow your emotions to get out of hand but do not repress them either. Be tactful.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You should not expect more than you are prepared to give in return. Show just a little more respect for your elders. You will be able to deal with an inconsistency by looking at it from a new direction. Be more tolerant.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Something you have been meaning to do should be done without further delays. Do dispose of some accumulated material that will no longer be needed. Make sure you do not neglect some small infection. Be less glib.



Virgo
Aug. 22 - Sept. 22

Do not allow yourself to be daunted by the difficulties—once you start it will prove easier. Watch out when on the road, an accident is little better than a not your fault. Do not let a friend down. Be dependable.



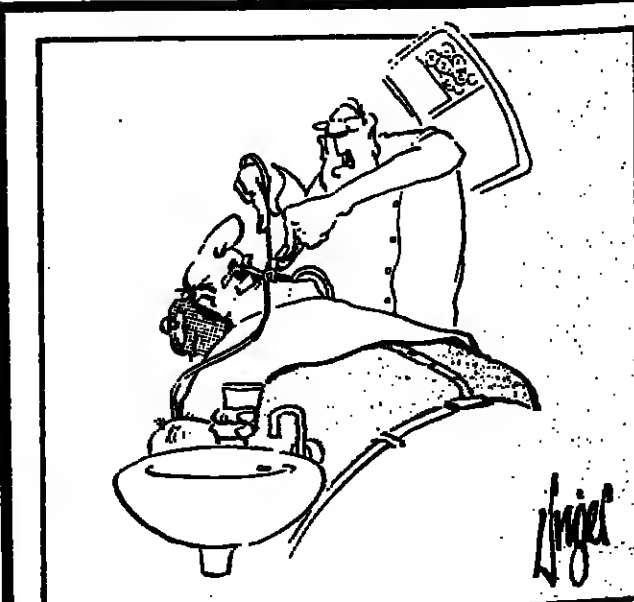
Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

If you try to do too many things all at once you will end by doing none of them well. Something you have learned recently will now stand you in good stead. Do not expect to have everything all your own way. Be resourceful.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

You are liable to be a little more gloomy than the situation deserves. However false optimism should be equally avoided. You should be more guided by reason than by intuition or by "instinct." Be less resentful.



"So, did any of your other clients lose money on the stock market besides me?"



"I hope you're not going to be like my first three husbands. They all went bankrupt."

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Phone No. 2439290-4, 2439281-4

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SPORTS

Pistons outplay Hornets

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, March 12, (AP): Joe Dumars and James Edwards scored 21 points apiece last night, leading the Detroit Pistons to their eighth straight victory, 98-88 over the Charlotte Hornets.

The Pistons led 87-78 after Bill Laimbeer's 3-point shot, but had to fight off a late Charlotte rally for their 21st victory in 22 games.

Lakers 123, Hawks 115
Magic Johnson scored 32 points and had 14 assists and James Worthy added 30 as the Los Angeles Lakers overcame an early 13-point deficit for a 123-115 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

It was the Lakers' third victory in a row and 11th in their last 13 games.

The Lakers took the lead for good at 88-86 on a two free throws by Johnson with 1:20 left in the third period. Johnson, who also had 8 rebounds, had 13 points in the quarter.

Celtics 107, 76ers 105
Joe Kleine, playing for injured centre Robert Parish, hit an 11-foot jumper with 8.2 seconds left after grabbing an offensive rebound, giving the Boston Celtics a 107-105 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

On the 76ers' last possession, Charles Barkley, the NBA leader in shooting percentage, shot an airball from just to the left of the foul line with 3.2 seconds left. The ball then hit Philadelphia's Rick Mahorn and sailed out of bounds as time expired.

Cavaliers 107, Bucks 96
Mark Price scored 31 points and Cleveland used a strong third quarter to beat Milwaukee 107-96 and snap a six-game losing streak.

The Cavaliers outscored Milwaukee 39-18 in the third quarter and went on to hand the Bucks their sixth straight loss.

Trailing 47-41 at halftime, Cleveland outscored Milwaukee 19-2 at the beginning of the second half to take a 60-49 lead with 6:53 left in the third period.

Price scored seven of his 10 third-quarter points during the spurt and John Williams had five. The Cavaliers extended their lead to 101-81 on consecutive baskets by Price and Williams with 3:43 remaining.

Warriors 123, Kings 116
Chris Mullin scored 32 points and Mitch Richmond had 12 of his 28 in the fourth quarter as the Golden State Warriors held off a late Sacramento surge to defeat the Kings 123-116.

A layup by Antoine Carr, who paced Sacramento with 27 points, cut the Warriors' lead to 99-94 with just under 10 minutes to play. Four minutes later, Sacramento trimmed Golden State's lead to 104-102 when Pervis Ellison sank two free throws. But the Kings could not get any closer.

When Manute Bol missed two free throws with 1:47 remaining for Golden State, the Kings were unable to capitalize.

Knicks 106, Heat 90
Patrick Ewing scored 30 points, including three straight fourth-quarter baskets, as the New York Knicks held off a Miami rally and posted a 106-90 win over the Heat.

With the Knicks leading 81-61 late in the third quarter, Miami launched an 18-3 run that featured six points, four rebounds and two assists by Billy Thompson. That trimmed New York's lead to 84-79 with 6:04 left.

Ewing answered with a 10-foot jumper at the 5:35 mark, only the second and third points of the fourth quarter for New York. He was fouled by Miami's Rony Seikaly, who had 28 points and 12 rebounds, but missed the free throw.

Results
L.A. Lakers 123 Atlanta 115
Boston 107 Philadelphia 105
Cleveland 107 Milwaukee 96
Golden State 123 Sacramento 116
Detroit 98 Charlotte 88
New York 106 Miami 90
Utah 110 Denver 109

Standings
Standings of National Basketball Association after games played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost winning percentage, games back)

Eastern Conference
Atlantic Division
New York 39 22 .639
Philadelphia 38 24 .613 1-1/2
Boston 35 25 .583 3-1/2
Washington 24 39 .381 16
New Jersey 15 46 .246 26
Miami 14 48 .226 25-1/2

Central Division
Detroit 47 15 .758
Chicago 39 21 .650 7
Milwaukee 32 29 .523 14-1/2
Indiana 31 21 .590 16
Atlanta 29 32 .475 17-1/2
Cleveland 26 34 .433 18
Orlando 16 45 .262 30-1/2

Western Conference
Midwest Division
Utah 45 17 .726
San Antonio 39 20 .661 4-1/2
Denver 35 28 .554 11-1/2
Dallas 32 28 .533 12
Houston 30 31 .492 14-1/2
Minnesota 16 44 .267 28
Charlotte 10 49 .169 33-1/2

Pacific Division
L.A. Lakers 46 14 .767
Portland 43 18 .705 3-1/2
Phoenix 41 19 .683 5
Seattle 30 30 .500 16
Golden State 28 33 .459 18-1/2
L.A. Clippers 25 36 .410 21-1/2
Sacramento 18 43 .295 28-1/2

Danat takes line honours

Shammal wins night race

SHAMMAL won Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association's (KOSA) eighth race of the current Spring Series (SS8) on Thursday evening while UASC's Danat took the line honours.

The race was an important milestone in this season's calendar in that it was the first night race sailed for some years and gave all participating crews valuable experience in preparation for the scheduled Bahrain race late in April which will include at least two night passages.

The set course was designed to give crew an introduction to the differences of sailing and navigating at night and basically consisted of a long run up to marks just north of Kuwait Towers, a long run back to West Cardinal, a sausage around Bell Buoy and West Cardinal and a run back to the finish line a total distance of just over 32 nautical miles.

With a light northerly wind blowing the Race Officer was expecting the start to be a routine matter.

However the Skipper's had other ideas and seemed set to make the Race Officer's life difficult as 5 of the 6 competing yachts converged on the outer distance mark (ODM) of the start line at the beginning of the race. Danat, Shammal, Red Viking, Whispering and Good Company were involved in some very close quarters sailing which ultimately resulted in Shammal being forced out of the start line and having to recross and to the Race Officer's relief no protest flags.

The short leg to Bell Buoy, across the line was Magic Flute, who started further downwind from the "pack" closely followed by Whispering, Danat, Good Company and Red Viking.

The short beat up to the windward mark saw the fleet sorting itself with Danat rounding just in front of Red Viking followed by Shammal, who had recovered well from its poor start. Magic Flute, Whispering and Good Company. The short leg to Bell Buoy turned out to be a very shy reach with only

Shammal electing to fly a spinnaker. This forced her downwind of the mark but enabled her to make up some ground on Danat and Red Viking.

Soon after rounding Bell Buoy and heading north the wind started falling. Danat managed to stay in front with Red Viking and Shammal trading places down most of the leg. The rest of the fleet suffered from not rounding Bell Buoy before the wind started falling and fell far behind. As they approached Kuwait Towers Danat and Shammal managed to find a slot of wind which took them away from Red Viking and the rest of the boats who were mostly drifting with the tide. Red Viking drifted so close to Kuwait Towers that they eventually anchored for a short while.

After a couple of hours of aggressive drifting the wind started to pick up again. Danat and Shammal had rounded the South Cardinal in close proximity to each other but the rest of the fleet found that it took them

another hour to reach the same position. Red Viking rounded about 15 minutes in front of Magic Flute who were closely followed by Good Company. These three boats had their night enlivened by a container ship with horn blasting motoring past at this stage. The argument still continues as to whom was being blasted.

The reach back to West Cardinal was sailed under a strengthening wind and a very strong ebb tide. By the time the mark was reached most boats were having difficulty in keeping from broaching. The order at West Cardinal was Danat followed closely by Shammal. These two boats were so far in front that they were sailing the leg of the sausage back to West Cardinal as the rest of the fleet were rounding it after the run down from South Cardinal.

The rest of the race was sailed under a strong northerly wind of about 20 knots and roughening seas. The order of boats was unchanged at the finish with Danat crossing the line, after a little over seven hours of racing, just 18 minutes ahead of Shammal, a great result for both boats given the lack of race practice on Danat and the fact that Shammal is seven feet shorter than Danat. The rest of the fleet was led in by Red Viking, over an hour behind Shammal but only 15 seconds in front of Magic Flute who had sailed well over the final legs to make up considerable ground on this boat. Good Company had done well to come in 20 minutes later.

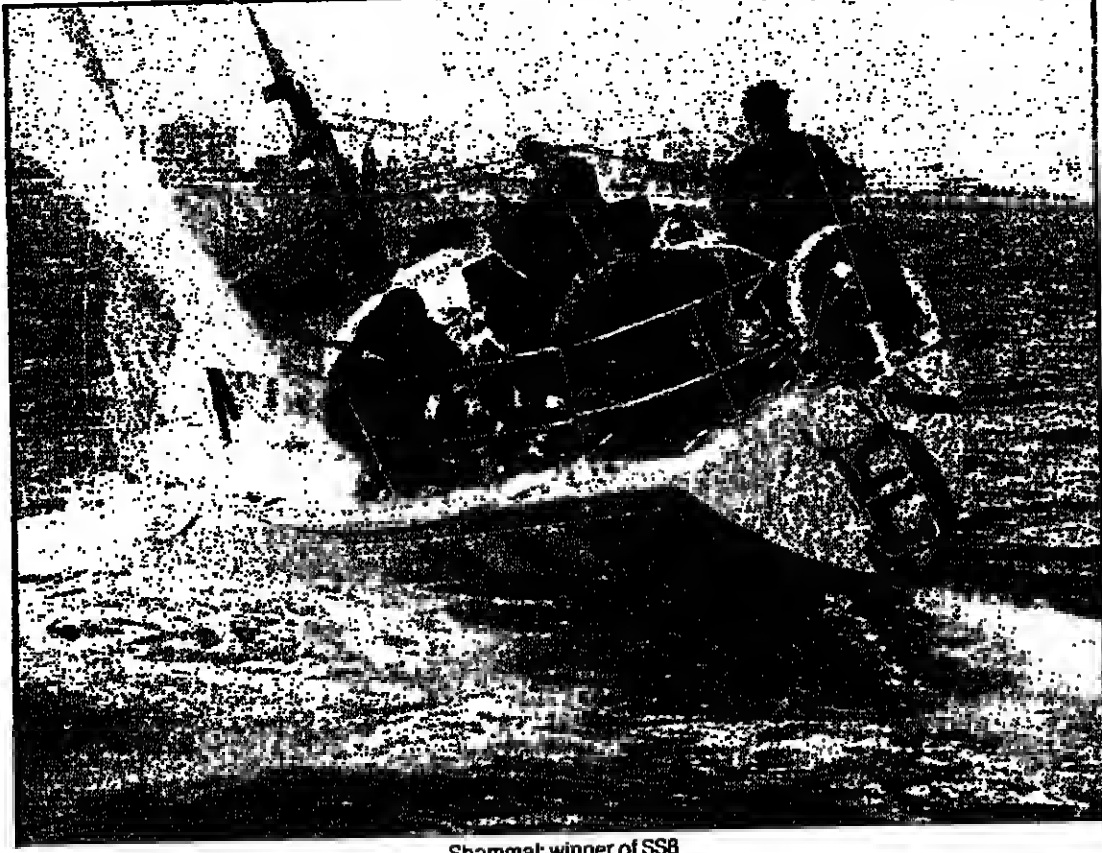
Significance

Handicap corrected results of race SS8 are: 1 Shammal, 2 Danat, 3 Magic Flute, 4 Good Company, 5 Red Viking.

Progressive scores after seven races in the Spring Series finds Red Viking, on 22.25, a quarter of a point in front of Shammal on 22.50 with Magic Flute in third place on 25.75.

Given the significance of this race the Race Committee was pleased at the turnout of yachts and especially pleased to welcome UASC's Danat back after a long layoff. With the imminent return of Gambit and Gull Wing, after extensive refits, the racing leading up to the Kuwait to Bahrain race promises to be of a high standard.

The next race is scheduled for March 15 and is a long distance overnight event. Briefing is at 4 pm at the Shakh Marina.



Shammal: winner of SS8

Huston holds off Calcavecchia

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla., March 12, (Reuters): John Huston held off a late charge by Mark Calcavecchia to win the million-dollar PGA Classic golf tournament by two strokes for his first Tour title.

Huston, in his third year on the Tour, shot a one-under-par 71 for a total of six-under-par 282. Calcavecchia posted his second successive 69 to finish at 284.

The victory earned Huston \$180,000 along with an invitation to next month's Masters tournament in Augusta, Ga., the first major championship of the year.

"I don't know how to react when I win," said Huston. "I didn't know what to expect. I felt relieved I guess."

"I've won a thousand tournaments in a thousand different ways, but this is the first one I've

won when I was awake," he joked.

Huston began the final round with a one-shot lead over Mark Brooks, but quickly pulled away to a four-shot advantage after nine holes. However, a bogey at 11 dropped him to seven under par and birdies on the 14th and 15th holes by Calcavecchia brought the British Open champion to six under.

Calcavecchia, though, missed a three-foot par putt on the 16th hole and also bogeyed the 18th to fall back to four-under-par. Calcavecchia, who also finished second at last week's Doral Open, earned \$108,000.

Huston made a pivotal 12-foot par saving putt on the 16th hole and three-putted the 17th for bogey before finishing with a routine two-putt par for the title on 18.

Brooks, who fell behind early with bogeys at three and four at the Tournament Players Club at Eagle Trace, shot a 73 to tie for third place at 285 along with Ray Floyd, Bruce Lietzke and Billy Ray Brown.

Tom Watson began the final round four shots back and promptly birdied the fifth hole to move into contention, but he fell back with a two-over 38 on his inward nine and finished at even-par 288.

Two-time US Open champion Curtis Strange never threatened from back in the pack yesterday and his final-round 71 left him among a large group at two-over-par 290.

The Tour moves further north in Florida next week for the \$1.5 million Players Championship at Sawgrass.

Will clinches first title

LAS VEGAS, March 12, (Reuters): Maggie Will fought through gusting winds that reached 65 kph yesterday to win her first Tour title with a one-stroke victory in the \$400,000 inaugural Desert Inn International women's golf tournament.

Will posted a three-over-par 75 for a four-under-par 214 total that proved good enough as overnight leader Patti Rizzo struggled to a 79 to finish one shot back along with Val Skinner and Ayako Okamoto of Japan.

Will, in her second year on the Tour, began the day three strokes behind Rizzo.

"I came out today thinking that par will be my friend in this wind," said Will. "Par was my friend today."

Will recorded six straight pars until the par-3 seventh, where she pulled her tee shot left and hit a wall. Her ball bounced off the wall over the green and Will settled for a bogey to fall back to four under par for the tournament.

Rizzo was troubled by the wind from the start. At the par-4 second hole, she hit her second shot short of the green and then chipped over the green and suffered a double bogey.

Gardini unveils Cup challenger

VENICE, Italy, March 12, (Reuters): Italian business tycoon Raul Gardini yesterday launched a prototype yacht he hopes will be a challenger in the America's Cup race in 1992.

Gardini, president of Italy's Montedison chemical giant and a keen yachtsman, presided at the launch of the "Moro di Venezia" (Moor of Venice) on the grand canal of the Lagoon City.

The 24.4-metre boat is the first of four to be constructed for Venice's Compagnia Della Vela Yacht Club.

Gardini, president of the European America's Cup Class Association (EACCA), hopes to enter one of the boats, all of which will bear the same name, in the 1992 competitions of the world's most prestigious yachting event.

Karpov and Timman draw third game

KUALA LUMPUR, March 12, (Reuters): Former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union and Jan Timman of the Netherlands drew the third game of the World Candidates Chess final played yesterday.

Timman opened with the white pieces and Karpov's response turned the game into a nimzo-Indian defence. Karpov appeared surprised by Timman's early moves and played slowly.

Through careful tactics, Karpov managed to win a pawn on his 24th move and then steadily increased his advantage.

Both players were running short of time as they approached the first time control of 40 moves in two hours. Through a series of quick moves, they were able to complete their 40th move.

Karpov was once again in time trouble in the second time control of 20 moves in one hour. Experts say he lost his initial advantage as a result of impulsive play.

Timman, with more time on his clock, came back strongly and when he offered a draw before making his 62nd move, Karpov immediately accepted.

Karpov, regarded as the heavy favourite, is now leading the 12-game match by 2.0 points to 1.0. A point is awarded for a win and 0.5 for a draw.

Ballesteros makes up five shots for victory



Ballesteros: playing well again

PALMA, Majorca, March 12, (Reuters): Severiano Ballesteros, oozing class and confidence despite a heavy cold, won the Balearic Open golf championship yesterday with a typical last lap charge.

Ten holes from the end Magnus Persson was five shots ahead. But the Swede slipped as Ballesteros shone and the Spaniard's birdie at the last forced a playoff for the \$75,000 first prize.

Persson chose a four-wood instead of his usual iron for his tee shot at the first extra hole and struck his ball into a lake. A par five for Ballesteros was enough for his 60th victory and a familiar place at the top of the European Order of Merit.

Ballesteros carried 68 on the Son Vida course to match the 19-under-par total of 269 by Persson, who slumped to a 73.

The show started at the par-four ninth. Persson hooked his drive out of bounds into gardens and Ballesteros, after a huge drive, chipped to five feet for a birdie. The lead of five was down to two.

Persson, aiming for his first Tour success, birdied the 10th to go three clear again and both birdied the long 11th with three putts. But the Swede bunkered his tee shot to bogey the short 12th and Ballesteros narrowed the gap to a single stroke with a birdie four

at 13.

At 18, Persson was bunkered and took five but Ballesteros, after hooking his second into the crowd, chipped to six inches with a typical piece of magic.

Ballesteros said: "I was a little lucky when Magnus made those mistakes at the ninth. In the playoff I think he made a mistake by going with a wood off the tee at the hole where he had played an iron previously."

"I am very happy because at the finish I was starting to lose my strength because of the flu and if the playoff had gone on who knows what might have happened."

After six or seven months of playing poorly my game has started to come back this week and now I am looking forward to going to America to prepare for the Masters in the Bay Hill and Houston events."

Persson said: "I don't think I made a mistake in the playoff. I hit an iron there in the championship and had too far to go with my second shot. It was sensible to change to a four wood — I just hit it badly."

"Ex-caddie Juan Quiros of Spain, 99th in last year's money list, shot 68 for a career-best third place on 271.



Danat: flying her spinnaker

Socials edge Kokan

SOCIALS scored a 12-run victory over Kokan in the opening match of the DHL Champions Cricket Tournament at the Shurwaikh Ground earlier this week.

Socials' skipper Paul won the toss and opted to bat, opening the innings through Arun and Dinesh. The Kokan bowlers bowled an accurate line and length and tied down the openers for a while. Dinesh, a makeshift opener, failed to get on top of the

bowling and was out in the third over.

Arun and Chris then got together and started to repair this earlier damage, playing cautiously at first and later opening up and taking the match to the bowlers.

Arun hit six fours and was unlucky to miss his fifty when he was run out on 48. Chris kept on playing his aggressive strokes and scored 52 with the help of six fours.

Shanta chipped in with 23 in which he hit a six and a four as Socials put on 151 for the loss of nine wickets in the allotted 25 overs.

Set to score over six runs an over for victory, the Kokan batsmen ran into some very accurate bowling from the Social pacemen Anand and Jackson. Paul and Chris also bowled magnificently.

Javed and Iqbal tried to lift the team out of the doldrums with an unbeaten 53 and 32 respectively but Kokan were still restricted to 139 for six.

Paul was the most successful bowler with three for 27.

Oklahoma top seeded

NEW YORK, March 12, (Reuters): Oklahoma, Nevada-Las Vegas, Connecticut and Michigan State were named top seeds yesterday for the 64-team, US National Collegiate Basketball Tournament, kicking off what has come to be known as "March madness."

The four top seeds are favoured to come through their respective regional playoffs, which precede the championship, or "final four" weekend held this year in Denver, Colorado, starting on March 31.

Oklahoma is seeded first in the Midwest, where Purdue, Georgetown and Arkansas round out the top four. They will play their first playoff game on Thursday against Towson State at Austin, Texas.

Nevada-Las Vegas is number one in the West and have drawn Arkansas-Little Rock as their opening opponent at Salt Lake City, Utah. The other top seeds are Arizona, Michigan and Louisville.

The University of Connecticut crowned their surprising season by being named top seed in the East over Kansas, Duke and LaSalle. The UConn Huskies will

take on Boston University in their opening game at Hartford, Connecticut.

Michigan State were awarded top honours in the tough Southeast regional and will meet Murray State on Thursday at Knoxville, Tennessee. Seeded behind Michigan State were Syracuse, Missouri and Georgia Tech.

The Big 10 Conference, whose tournament Michigan State won with a victory over Purdue yesterday, placed a record seven teams into the NCAA tournament.

Jansher outlasts Jahangir

SALZBURG, Austria, March 11, (Reuters): World champion Jansher Khan won his latest confrontation with great rival Jahangir Khan in the Austrian Open squash championship final on Sunday.

Jansher completed a 13-15 15-11 15-12 15-5 victory in 103 minutes, giving him some compensation for relinquishing the world number one position to Jahangir earlier this month.

He now leads 14-13 in head-to-head battles waged around the world circuit since the two Pakistanis first met in the Spanish Open final early in 1987.

His Salzburg success also establishes Jansher as unofficial favourite for next month's British Open which Jahangir will be trying to win for a record with successive time.

The match was punctuated by a string of interruptions as both Pakistanis requested the floor — which had proved dangerously slippery throughout the tournament — to be wiped after prolonged rallies.

After one such delay, Jahangir conceded an 11-5 lead in the critical third game. "If I had taken that game, I believe I would have won 3-1," Jahangir claimed.

Jahangir later collected the first three points of the fourth game, but had no answer to the tremendous pressure exerted by Jansher from there on.

"I still feel fresh," Jansher said after the final. "Jahangir played very well through the first two games, but I thought he tired after that and I never felt in danger of losing."

"My one major concern was when I took a very heavy fall late in the first game. I hurt my left knee quite badly and it also reminded me how dangerous the floor was."

Despite his defeat, Jahangir remained confident that he can retain the British Open title. "I feel I am getting well prepared for the British Open, and I will now train hard for the four weeks that remain before the tournament."

Jansher retorted in similar fashion. "I will be doing my very best to win the British Open and after this week's Finnish Open, I will return home to Pakistan to work with my (former world number two), brother (Mohibullah)."

Jansher Khan



Record improved

Herman Fehninger jubilates after improving the Austrian pole vault record on Sunday evening in Grenoble during the Indoor Masters athletics meet. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hashimoto captures four golds

SAPPORO, Japan, March 12. (AP) Speed skater Seiko Hashimoto, a favourite in Japan for her fighting spirit, won her third and fourth gold medals of the Asian Winter Games within two hours today, and South Korea's Bae Ki-Tae won his second.

Mongolia won its first Winter Games medal ever, taking a bronze in the men's 4x10-kilometre cross country skiing, behind Japan and South Korea.

Meanwhile, Japan appeared to have clinched the overall medals race. With six events left on the final two days, Japan had 13 golds and a total of 35 medals. China had eight golds and a total of 22, and had virtually no chance in one of the remaining events, the women's slalom skiing. South Korea had six golds and a total of 19.

Asian Games records fell in all three of today's speed skating races, despite rain during the women's 3,000 metres. Bae, the world sprint champion, also broke one games record yesterday.

Bae indicated he might retire after this meet, but South Korean officials said they hoped he would enter the 1992 Olympics.

Hashimoto's triumphs in the 3,000, the longest race here for women speed skaters and the 1,000 gave her a sweep of all four women's races.

Japan also won the men's slalom skiing today, but unlike in the previous two alpine ski races did not sweep the top four places. Rain and later snow made the course tricky, and two Japanese were among seven skiers who did not finish the first run.

Japanese teams won two cross country ski races, while China's only gold of the day came in the men's 10-kilometre biathlon.

In the men's 1,000-metre speed skating, Bae avenged a loss in the 500 to China's Song Chen. His clocking of 1 minute, 15.43 seconds broke his own games record of 1:20.22. Song was second in 1:16.94 and Japan's Hozumi Moriyama third in 1:17.05.

"I was determined to dash from the beginning and even (risk a) fall during the race," Bae said.

"He added, 'I am now ready in leaving the rink. I will enter Japan's Tsukuba University Sept 1.'

But Chang Myoung-Hi, deputy leader of the South Korean delegation, said, "I hope Bae will continue to compete and make history by winning South Korea's first medal at the next winter Olympics in Albertville (France) in 1992. I will talk with Bae when we return home."

Hashimoto, who placed second overall in the 1990 World Championships, came from behind in the last 800 metres in winning the 3,000 in 4 minutes, 39.05 seconds, breaking the record of 4:44.98 set in the first Asian Winter Games in 1986 by Japan's Keiko Asao.

Standings
Medals table on the fourth day of the second Asian Winter Games today (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

Japan	13	12	10
China	8	7	7
S. Korea	6	7	6
N. Korea	0	1	4
Mongolia	0	0	1
India	0	0	0
Iran	0	0	0
Taiwan	0	0	0
Philippines	0	0	0

Sheikh Fahd hopes for unified Korean team

SAPPORO, Japan, March 12. (AP) Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, president of the Olympic Council of Asia, said today he hoped South and North Korea would succeed in forming a single team for the Asian Games in Beijing this summer.

Sheikh Fahd also said he would visit North Korea very soon to check on its progress in preparations for the next Asian Winter Games, in 1995.

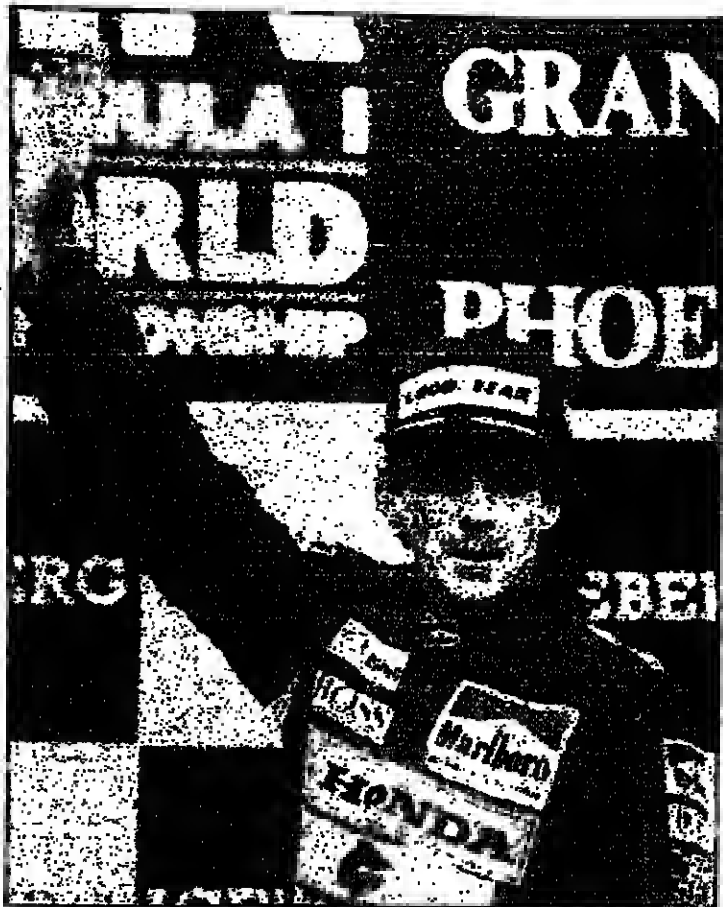
"We in the Olympic Council of Asia are greatly concerned to see that all divided countries participate as one national team. This is for humanitarian reasons," he said at a news conference.

He added, "We have succeeded... that the two Yemens, the North and the South, will participate in Beijing as one national team. We hope that all the efforts between South and North Korea will succeed also and will result in one national team."

The two Koreas reached basic agreement to form a single Korean team for the Games in Beijing, but the talks broke down over South Korea's insistence on written guarantees that the agreement would be carried out. Officials said they feared the North could raise last-minute problems after it was too late for the South to enter separately.

Prost and Mansell fail to finish

Senna wins United States Grand Prix



Senna waves to the crowd from the victory rostrum. (Reuter wirephoto)



Senna wheels his McLaren around a turn. (Reuter wirephoto)

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 12. (Reuters) Brazilian Ayrton Senna shrugged off all the controversy which has dogged him since last November when he swept to a great victory in the United States Grand Prix on the streets of Phoenix yesterday.

Senna, world champion in 1988 but an unhappy runner-up to his former McLaren teammate Alain Prost of France last year, won the opening race of this year's championship after a great battle with Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Tyrrell.

Alesi, in only his ninth Grand Prix, led for 34 laps of the 72-lap race and battled wheel to wheel with Senna for two laps before conceding and accepting second place. It was his first finish on the rostrum and the Tyrrell team's best result since 1983 when Michele Alboreto won in Detroit.

It was the 21st victory of Senna's career and his first since the Spanish Grand Prix last season. Senna's new McLaren teammate Gerhard Berger of Austria started from pole position but was forced to retire after clutch problems following an accident early in the race.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen was third in a Williams ahead of Brazilian Nelson Piquet who marked his debut for the Benetton team with a controlled drive to fourth place.

Stefano Modena of Italy, who did not know he would be in the Grand Prix at all until his Brabham team's future was settled last Wednesday, finished fifth ahead of Japan's Satoru Nakajima in the second Tyrrell.

The race was a big disappointment for both Ferrari drivers, Briton Nigel Mansell and world champion Alain Prost of France.

They were both forced to retire. Mansell, having started 17th on the grid, pulled out after his car had produced a spurt of flames when he was running fifth on the 50th lap.

Prost, having settled down in fourth place after 20 laps, was

also forced to pull up with a combination of engine and gearbox problems.

Alesi made an excellent start and shot through to lead from the first corner where he was followed by Berger, Italian Andrea de Cesaris in a Dallara, and Senna.

By lap 11, he led by more than eight seconds, but Senna, who worked his way through the field, gradually caught him and after two exciting laps when they battled for the lead, Senna eventually got through.

Senna said: "The most important thing from this victory is motivation because after last year and the winter there was no motivation, it was gone."

"But driving the car all my natural instincts took over. Now I am trying to build all my motivation again and reach the levels I had last year."

Alesi said: "For me, it is a dream to race like this with Ayrton. Two or three years ago, he was my hero. For me, it was incredible to fight with him."

Senna agreed it was a lively battle.

"It was very exciting. It was a clean fight. An exciting one — right on the limit, which is what I enjoy," Senna said.

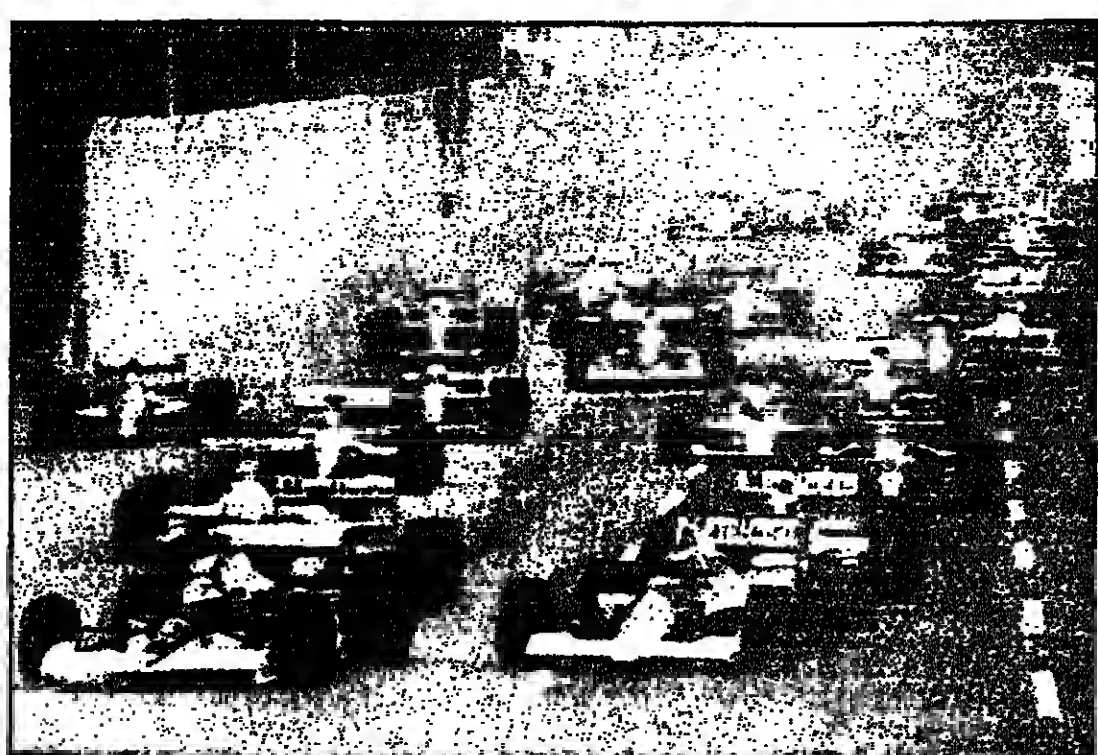
Senna praised Alesi for making a "fantastic start" and suggested the young French driver had all the qualities of a future champion.

Mansell was hugely disappointed at being forced to retire after Ferrari's very encouraging close-season testing programme had raised hopes of a real challenge for the championship this year.

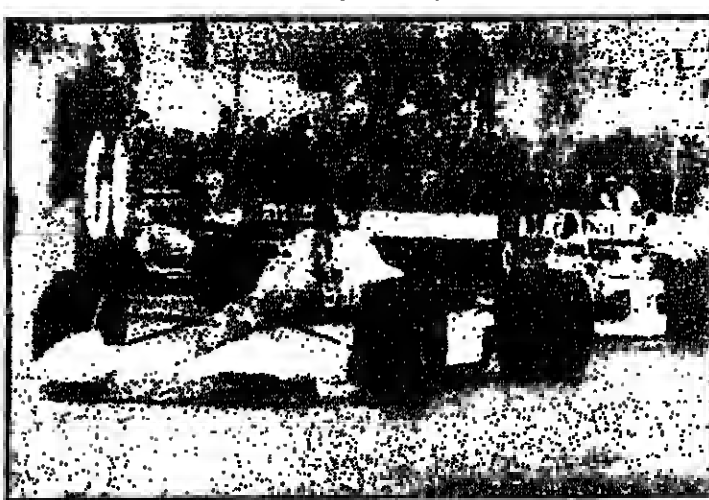
"It is not our sort of circuit," he said. "We couldn't get anything to go right all weekend."

Mansell was forced out with engine problems and Prost, who also said he had problems all through the weekend, was forced out by oil leaks from the car's semi-automatic gearbox.

It was a disastrous day for the



Formula One cars jostle for position at the start of the race. (Reuter wirephoto)



Alesi, closely followed by Berger, at the first turn. (Reuter wirephoto)

revamped Lotus team as both drivers were forced to give up early on.

Briton Martin Donnelly was forced to retire before the start of

the race as his engine failed before the warm-up and fellow-Briton Derek Warwick lasted only five laps before being forced to retire with gearbox problems.

Buder takes slalom for first victory

STRANDA, Norway, March 12. (AP) Karin Buder of Austria skied to her first World Cup victory, winning by just six-hundredths of a second as her team took six of the seven first places yesterday in the women's slalom race.

"I have waited for this two years, and just now it's hard to believe that I won," Buder said.

The 26-year-old Buder had a combined time of 1 minute, 25.57 seconds (43.09 and 42.48), beating compatriot Claudia Strobel 1:25.63 (43.99-41.64) and Anita Wachter 1:26.48 (44.45-42.03).

Camilla Nilsson of Sweden squeezed in among the string of Austrians with a fourth place in 1:26.56. She was followed by Austrians Ida Ladstätter in 1:26.76, Ingrid Salvenmoser 1:26.92 and Petra Kronberger 1:27.10.

Slalom leader Vreni Schneider of Switzerland had to abandon the race in the second run and the battle for the slalom title opened up. Schneider's 27-point lead shrank to seven over Claudia Strobel with two races left.

Wachter cut six points off Kronberger's lead in the overall standings. Kronberger now has 294 points to Wachter's 279 with five events remaining.

Buder led after the first run, but her time in the second was only 10th fastest. She led a slalom early in the season at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, but finished third, matching her best previous placement.

"But today I didn't feel any pressure," she said.

Konishiki triumphs again

OSAKA, Japan, March 12. (AP) American champion Konishiki drove No. 3 Magashira, or senior wrestler, Hananokuni out of the ring for his second victory against no defeats today, second day of the 15-day Spring Grand Sumo tournament.

Wrestling before 8,000 spectators at the Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium in Osaka, Western Japan, the 233-kilogramme (513-pound) Konishiki fought off the 145-kilogramme (319-pound) Hananokuni's slapping and arm throw attempts and forced him out of the ring. Hananokuni is 0-2.

Konishiki, whose real name is Salevaa Fuauli Atisanoe, is to meet Komusubi, or junior champion second class, Terao tomorrow.

In the 26-member Juryo Division, the second only to the 36-man Makuuchi Senior Division, newly promoted Chad Rowan, better known here as No. 12-ranked Akebono, suffered his second defeat against no victories as he was thrown to the dirt by No. 5-ranked Nishinoryu.

Nishinoryu downed Rowan with an arm throw when the Hawaiian fought off Nishinoryu's shoving attempts at the ring's edge.

In the top junior division of Makushita, Argentine Marcelo Salomon Imach, or No. 4-ranked Hoshitango, suffered his first defeat against no victories as he was pushed out of the ring by the similarly ranked Tochigenou.



Desert Orchid during last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup event.

'Dessie' set to join famous names

CHEL TENHAM, England, March 12. (Reuters) Desert Orchid, the superstar of jump racing, is set to join such famous names as Arkle and Golden Miller by retaining the Cheltenham Gold Cup he won a year ago.

Although age is against the handsome grey emulating five-time winner Golden Miller, Desert Orchid is in such good heart that a repeat of Arkle's bat-lick between 1964-66 is quite within his scope.

The Gold Cup on Thursday is the finale of the traditional three-day festival which opens tomorrow with the champion hurdle.

Six years ago Desert Orchid, affectionately known as 'Dessie', ran 10th in the champion, but it was only in 1985 when the gelding turned to steeplechasing that glory was to begin.

The career record now reads 31 wins from 60 starts. At the age of 12 he is performing as well as ever.

His latest outing, at Kempton Park, when he gave weight and a beating to some highly experienced animals, was a masterpiece.

Desert Orchid's jumping was at times breathtaking and he ran for jockey Richard Dunwoody with the vigour of a horse half his age.

As a sporting feat it was the equal of a year ago when he ploughed up the Cheltenham Hill in appalling conditions to win the Gold Cup for the first time.

Age has not weakened him and Thursday's opposition in the three and a quarter mile (5.2 km) test is no stronger than in 1989.

The victory last year on ground much softer than he likes scotched fears that the horse was less effective on a left-handed circuit, although it remains true that only two of his

successes have been on such tracks.

Bookmakers make Desert Orchid a slight odds-on chance at 4-5 followed by champion jockey Peter Scudamore's mount Bonanza Boy at 9-2 and the improving Toby Tobias at 8-1.

Scudamore feels Desert Orchid is virtually unbeatable at Sandown and Kempton (right-handed courses), but may still have a Cheltenham weakness. Bonanza Boy has produced some fine efforts over the last two years but was a well-beaten fourth in last year's Gold Cup.

Toby Tobias hails from the stable of Jenny Pitman, the first woman to win the Gold Cup when saddling Burrough Hill Lad in 1984.

But Toby Tobias is not long out of the novice stage and the Gold Cup may be another year or so away.

Best of the others may be 12-1 chance Cavvies Clown, second in 1988 and a stable companion of Desert Orchid, and Yahooo (33-1), runner-up last year and a good prospect if the weather were to worsen.

Tomorrow's champion hurdle features the injury-prone See You Then, winner of the race three times between 1985-87.

Absent for long periods with leg trouble, See You Then ran well enough in a recent trial to take his chance, but bookmakers rate him no better than 20-1.

Last year's 50-1 shot, winner Beech Road has performed with credit all season and had been well fancied to follow up.

But the drying weather has seen him lose his place at the head of the betting market to 2-1 favourite Kribensis, a disappointment 12 months ago but in good form since.

Hadlee not quitting cricket 'yet'

Kiwi star may play against England

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, March 12. (Reuters) New Zealand cricket's all-round great, Richard Hadlee, threw his Test plans into confusion today only hours after announcing his retirement, hinting he might yet tour England later this year.

Tributes poured in for 38-year-old Hadlee, the only man to have taken 400 Test wickets, after he announced yesterday at Auckland's Eden Park that he would retire from international cricket later this month.

In an interview with television New Zealand, Hadlee appeared to confirm that his 18-year international career would end with a Test against Australia at Wellington's Basin Reserve starting on Thursday.

"I started my first Test in '72/73 against Pakistan at the Basin Reserve. That was my first Test and the last one will be at the Basin Reserve against the Australians ...

that's a nice way to start and finish."

But pressed about the England tour, which starts in May, Hadlee said: "Can I throw a teaser in here? What I have said is it is the last time that I'll be playing here in New Zealand wearing New Zealand colours particularly at Eden Park, but have I discounted the tour of England?"

Smiling broadly, he added: "I haven't said that."

However, he confirmed his Test career in New Zealand was over.

New Zealand cricket coach Bob Cunis said Hadlee had yet to inform the team officially that he would retire but the team would have an informal get-together late today.

"He hinted he may retire yesterday but he didn't actually tell us," Cunis told the New Zealand Press Association. "I have heard so many conflicting reports. Tonight is a good chance for



Richard Hadlee the whole team to find out what his plans really are. Earlier, Hadlee said he

would not be lost to cricket, saying he might play for his provincial side Canterbury during the 1990-91 season.

"I've enjoyed my Canterbury cricket. I enjoyed that perhaps more than any other type and so I might consider giving that another go next year," he told Radio New Zealand.

Hadlee will play in four benefit matches starting later this month with a New Zealand side matched against a star-studded international selection.

"I don't think I'll be lost to the game. There are other aspects of the game to consider whether it be coaching, administration, selection in time, to talk about the game, to write about the game, there are various options," he said.

But he added: "It's time my family had more of me." He and his wife Karen have two boys aged eight and nine. "I feel age is catching up with me and I've got too many aches and pains."



Sheikh Fahd, OCA president

second games. In the future, we are going to encounter less and less financial burdens."

He thanked Japan "as the state behind" achievements so far in the Winter Games.

He also pledged support for the Japanese city of Nagano's bid to stage the 1998 Winter Olympics.

"If we are lucky enough to get the Winter Olympic Games held

in Nagano in 1998, I think it is going to be great success like (fellow Asian City) Seoul's in the Summer Games in 1988," he said.

"Asia as a continent has played a great role in the promotion of Olympic sports in the world," Sheikh Fahd said.

Asked about a mixup in which the public address system played the Mongolian and North Korean national anthems before putting on the correct anthem in the medal ceremony for a South Korean speed skating winner, he said, "These are natural things that could happen in any Games."

"We learn from these mistakes," he said, adding, "they should not belittle the great efforts of the organizers ... to make these Winter Games a success."

The organizing committee formally apologized to South Korea over the anthem mixup.

Asked whether professional tennis players would be allowed to compete in the Games in Beijing in September, Sheikh Fahd said that while he personally opposed these professionals playing in either the Olympics or the Asian Games, the International Olympic Committee has allowed them in the Olympics, the OCA follows Olympic rules.

SPORTS

UAE soccer coach resigns over poor showing in Gulf Cup

ABU DHABI, March 12. (Reuters): The Polish soccer coach of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has resigned following the World Cup finalist's failure in the Gulf Cup tournament.

the UAE Soccer Association announced today. "Bernard Blautt... has tendered his resignation and it was accepted by the football association," an association

official said.

Local sports commentators had expected Blautt to leave after the UAE national team finished last in the six-nation Gulf Cup tournament.

losing 6-1 in their final match on Friday to eventual winners Kuwait, the host team. The local press have called for wider responsibility for the team's

dismal showing.

"If the problem were discussed frankly and freely, the responsibility should not be shouldered only by Blautt, who has become the underdog

overnight," the Arabic newspaper Al

Khaleej said today. Speaking on UAE Arabic television yesterday evening, team mem-

bers said they had not played well in Kuwait. Sports sources in the UAE said the new coach could be a Brazilian, but they did not identify any candidates.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cricket Test

GEORGETOWN, March 12. (Reuters): After a washout on the first two days, play on the third day of the second cricket Test between West Indies and England looked highly unlikely today. Most of the surface water had drained from the ground, but large areas of the outfield, including the bowlers' run-ups, were sodden. The umpires optimistically decided to hold a mid-afternoon (1800 GMT) inspection, but prospects looked bleak.

Czech runner

PRAGUE, March 12. (UPI): Emil Zatopek, legendary long-distance runner from Czechoslovakia, is being officially rehabilitated 22 years after he was dismissed from the national team for his political views. Defence Minister Miroslav Vacek has given a formal apology to the 67-year-old Zatopek for his dismissal from the army track team following the military suppression of the 1968 Prague Spring uprising.

Shield cricket

SYDNEY, March 12. (Reuters): The Sheffield Shield cricket final later this month will be between New South Wales and Queensland. After the final round of preliminary matches ending today, the two teams finished on 26 points, six clear of South Australia.

Games tennis

SAPPORO, Japan, March 12. (Reuters): The president of the Olympic Council of Asia said that professional tennis players will be allowed to play in this year's Asian Games in Beijing. Asked whether professionals could compete in the summer Games, council president Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah told reporters: "The answer is definitely yes."

Tomba triumphs

SALEN, Sweden, March 12. (AP): Italian Alberto Tomba skied a blistering second run today to win the last men's World Cup slalom of the season. Tomba, fifth after the opening run, had a combined time of 1 minute, 37.70 seconds down the Stuten course as he ended the slalom campaign with one second place and two straight victories.

Supreme style

AACHEN, West Germany, March 12. (Reuters): Michael Gross, emerging in supreme style from a long absence from competitive swimming, set a European short-course butterfly record at the weekend and said he would be faster than ever at next year's world championships.

E. German tourney

EAST BERLIN, March 12. (AP): Steffi Graf, the world's top-ranked female tennis player, will enter a professional tournament scheduled for September in the East German city of Leipzig, the state-run news agency ADN said yesterday.

Bradley recalled

DUBLIN, March 12. (Reuters): Scrum half Michael Bradley has been recalled after two years for Ireland's final Five Nations rugby union championship game against Wales here on March 24. Bradley replaces Fergus Ahern, who, like his team, has had a poor season.

Sheraton bridge

RESULTS of the Sheraton team of four bridge game held on Friday: 1. Ezz & Tiab and Hencidi & Sherin 2. Moussal & Sabek and Parkel & Tomar Tuesday's game will be held at Regency Palace at 8.00 pm.

Sabatini takes title

Capriati's dream run ends

BOCA RATON, Florida, March 12. (Reuters): Top seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina ended the sensational run of 13-year-old American Jennifer Capriati by scoring a 6-4 7-5 victory yesterday in the final of the \$350,000 Florida Women's Tennis Tournament.

Sabatini earned \$70,000 for the win, while Capriati took away \$28,000 for finishing as runner-up in her first professional tournament. "I thought this was one of the greatest days of my life," Capriati said. "I'm just excited I got this far."

Capriati was trying to become the youngest woman to win a professional tournament. She beat Mary Lou Daniels, Claudia Porwik, Nathalie Tauziat, Helena Sukova and Laura Gildemeister on her way to the final. "I had to play my best tennis," Sabatini said after collecting her

first title of the year. Unlike her other five matches, Capriati failed to produce winners at the crucial junctures.

Down a break at 3-2 in the first set, Capriati could not find a way to break back. With Sabatini on the brink of taking the first set at 5-4, Capriati managed to go up love-30 — two points from evening the set at 5-5.

But Sabatini raised her game, holding off the spirited Capriati and nailing down the first set 6-4.

In the second set, Capriati broke Sabatini at love to lead 4-2 but she could not hold the advantage. Sabatini broke right back to put the set back on serve and broke again in the 11th game with the help of a few missed overheads by Capriati.

The Argentine served out to claim the title. Asked about relinquishing her second-set lead, Capriati said: "I think I got a little bit impatient and started making errors."

The tournament, of course, was still a triumph for Capriati, who beat four players ranked in the top 40 — including the 10th-ranked Sukova.

"This was my first pro tournament. I'll always have the memory of making it all the way to finals with me," Capriati said.



Capriati (right) congratulates Sabatini on her victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

Edberg beats Agassi

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 12. (Reuters): Stefan Edberg of Sweden claimed his first title of the year by beating sixth-seeded American Andre Agassi 6-4 5-7 7-6 7-6 yesterday in the final of the million-dollar Champions Cup tennis tournament.

Edberg, the second seed, showed no signs of the stomach injury which plagued him earlier in the year as he won tiebreakers in the last two sets to claim the \$125,000 first prize. Agassi received \$65,800 as runner-up.

Edberg and Agassi both struggled with adverse weather — sudden cool temperatures and high winds which created the occasional dust storm on the court.

The Swede's serve-and-volley game was less affected than Agassi's groundstrokes in the first set, although the Swede ventured to net less often than usual. Edberg took the first set 6-4 on a big first serve that Agassi could not return.

Agassi turned things around in the second set, keeping Edberg in the backcourt and taking a 3-0 lead. Edberg brought it back on serve in the ninth game but was broken again in the 12th game, Agassi ending it with a backhand crosscourt winner.

The players twice traded service breaks in the third set to force the tiebreaker.



Edberg lifts his trophy after winning the tournament. (Reuters wirephoto)

Brothers rout CCK for final

BROTHERS Sporting moved into the final of the President's Trophy, organised by GCL, with a seven-wicket victory over CCK at the EPI ground on Friday.

CCK, batting first after winning the toss, were all out for only 84 runs in 24 overs. They had started badly, losing their first wicket when the score was only eight runs.

One run later CCK lost another wicket and after this early loss they were never able to get back into the game. Kamal Patel did the most damage by taking four wickets while Rubit took two. Montu two and Yogesh Patel one.

Brothers never faced any difficulty in getting the required runs and scored 88 for three in only 17 overs.

Brothers had also started their innings badly, losing Yogesh on the third delivery of the first over. Sadek and Asghar took the score to 76 before the former was out for 38.

Skipper Masjed was out on the very next delivery but Asghar (34) and Tutul (6) took Brothers to victory without further loss. For CCK, Faisal took all the three wickets to fall.



Brown House: overall winners

26 NES records fall

THE most successful New English School Sports Day to date took place recently in Kuwait University's athletics stadium: most successful because the competition was held in purpose-built athletic facilities which meant that school records tumbled and a total of 26 new records were set.

The sports day was also successful in attracting a very high number of participants among the students, which resulted in many events requiring 'A' and 'B' races. Staff involvement was particularly prominent and included a hurly 'tug-of-war' team who trounced the student team by 2 tugs to 1. The day began bright and cheerful and after enduring two previous dull, grey days, staff and students alike felt that they were in for a great day.

The school operates a house system and students compete both to gain overall points for their house and to record individual achievements. Of the 26 new records mentioned, 22 were achieved in track performances and — almost a record in itself — 8 new records were set in 200 metres races.

Every student who participated in the events performed to his or her optimum ability and without this overall commitment to excellence, the record breakers could not be pushed to such outstanding wins.

Two records were broken by senior pupil Samer Jamus (Yellow House) who won the 800m and took 2 seconds off the previous record, then won the 1500m, where he reduced the record by an amazing 9 seconds. The 800m for fourth year boys was won by Alaa Rahman Hussein of Green house who reduced the previous time by 4 seconds. Records continued to fall for the senior pupils when Lisa



3rd-year boys hurdles — the start.



2nd-year boys in action during a relay.

Codd of Blue house won the 800m beating her close rival Nadia Dabbagh and the old record by 5 seconds, in a very competitive race.

An amazing three records were broken by Shaiza Zikra who won the Senior 4 200m, 400m and was instrumental in leading her Blue house relay team to first place. In both the high jump and the long jump, Green house's Sally Ghazi was an outstanding winner, breaking the high jump record by more than 10 cms. Two more records were removed when Rami David of senior 4 took the field for the 80m hurdles and for the 200m. The latter event was won jointly by Tony Kanaan.

Although the records fell with more frequency among

the more senior students, two impressive performances were recorded by, firstly Sharoo Siddiqui who won both the 200m and the long jump for senior 1 and by the second year boys' Blue house relay team which broke the record by 3 seconds. The relay races which were contested near the end of the day, were particularly exciting both as displays of highly competitive running and as the deciders for the final places for houses in each year group and the overall winners. To the cheers of a packed stand, Mark Shipley, the head of P.E., announced the house winners and the overall winners, who were Brown House. The trophies were awarded to the house captains by the headmistress, Mrs Naqib.

Real dream of records, Milan and Napoli battle on



Milan's Marco van Basten (front) beats Juventus' Roberto Bruno to the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

LONDON, March 12. (Reuters): While AC Milan and Napoli battle for the Italian League soccer title, Real Madrid have already begun wondering out loud which Spanish record they will shatter first.

Coach John Toshack wants Real to hit the 100 goal mark but Mexican marksman Hugo Sanchez is more concerned with 36. The Spanish champions, their fifth successive League title looking more and more a foregone conclusion, have already scored 84 goals this season with nine League matches remaining.

They are well on target to beat the 96-goal record set by arch-rivals Barcelona in 1958-59 but their Welsh coach wants to do better than that to crown his first season in the job.

"We are on the right track to reach the 100-goal figure," he said after Real defeated Real Sociedad, the last team to beat the champions in November last year, 3-0 at home on Sunday.

Sanchez scored his 30th goal of the season during the match to take his tally to within six goals of the scoring record set by Telmo Zarra of Athletic Bilbao in the 1950-51 season.

As midfielder Michel Gonzalez said on Sunday, League matches have become a mere formality for Real. They are 10 points clear of Barcelona, who demolished lowly Celta 6-0 at home.

Atletico Madrid are in third place, behind Barcelona on goal difference, but new coach Joaquin Peiro — who made a disappointing start with a goalless draw at Castellon — refused to accept city rival Real's claims on the League title.

"Mathematically the League is not yet decided and though it's difficult to catch up with Real Madrid we must not throw in the towel," he said, promising to get better performances from the team than his predecessor Javier Clemente.

Napoli captain Diego Maradona was among the first to gloat as First Division leaders AC Milan took a 3-0 hammering by Juventus which hauled the Argentine World Cup captain's team one point close to their northern Italian rivals.

"Thank you, Juventus, but let's hope you won't be as strong when you play against us," said the stocky midfielder when told

of Milan's first defeat in 16 League matches.

"It goes to show that AC Milan don't belong to another planet as some people say," Maradona added.

"Sometimes even the rich cry," he said.

Maradona's delight was dimmed by Napoli's failure to cash in on AC Milan's collapse, throwing away a chance to tie the top of the League with a 1-1 draw to sixth-from-bottom Lecce.

Milan's defeat left them looking shaky just four days after a surprising goalless draw with Belgium's Mechelen in a tense first-leg quarter-final clash for the European Cup.

"They were faster and more determined. We were in too much of a hurry to catch up, we left holes in our defence," said AC Milan trainer Arrigo Sacchi. "I'm not pleased with my players and I'm convinced we'll win the League."

If French Second Division Valenciennes and Avignon stole the headlines by beating top clubs Toulon and Brest respectively in the second round of the Cup, it was leaders Bordeaux who looked most impressive at

the weekend.

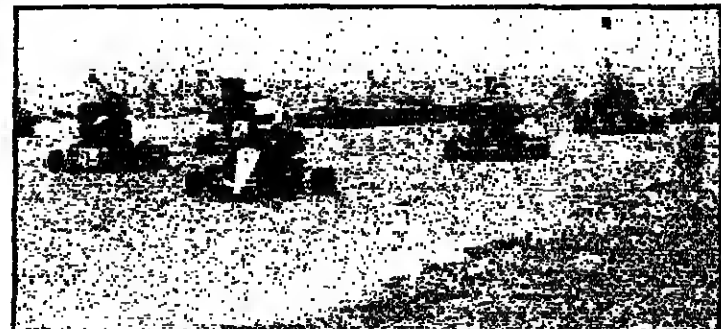
Putting some indifferent League form behind them, Bordeaux moved back into top gear with an 8-0 rampage at Third Division St Lo. West German striker Klaus Allofs scored a hat-trick and his Dutch partner Piet den Boer pitched in with a brace.

In West Germany, few doubt Bayern Munich will take their record tally of League titles to 12 this year despite a constant injury list. On Saturday they travelled to Hamburg and humbled the once-mighty north German team 3-0.

But next weekend they will be without Alan McNally for their home match against nearest rivals Eintracht Frankfurt, who trail them by two points. The Scot, who scored on Saturday, faces automatic suspension after four warnings.

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven, who won 9-2 a week ago, notched up another high-scoring victory with a 4-0 win at lowly Sparta to go two points clear of Ajax Amsterdam.

"The game was a disappointment," said Ajax coach Leo Beenhakker after their 0-0 draw to Volendam.



Some drivers in action at the Ahmadi kart race.

Stage set for kart race

KART racing sport began during the 50's in the USA. It polarised millions of people all over the world as it provides double enjoyment, promotes athletic skills of the individual and achieves championships as well.

This favourable and spectacular sport was introduced in Kuwait at the beginning of 60's, in 1962 at Ahmadi city.

Since 4 years, Mahdi Habib Commercial Establishment has exerted great efforts for encouraging this thrilling sport and devoting a lot of prizes for it. Adopting such a sport is based on the well-known rule: a sound mind in a sound body — motivating and inducing you this in the Gulf area to play an outstanding part in kart racing.

Preparations are being done for this race, which will be held at Ahmadi Kart Racing Club-house on March 16, 1990, under the patronage of Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

It is remarkable that kart racing will be a fantastic assembly of the stars and champions of this respectable sport. The English champion and his group, the Austrian champion and his group, Cyprus champions, European champions and the Far East champions in addition to champions from the Arab Gulf will be attending the racing. One of them, Sheikh Hashr bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, UAE champion, has got a highly elevated reputation in the field of this sport.

A pure athletic atmosphere producing creative competition is to prevail in the kart racing.

Such an international festival of kart racing will be a colourful demonstration for the good of sport and sportsmen.

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